

AUSTRALIAN HANDYMAN NOVEMBER 2015 • BUILD A PERGOLA • INSTALL A BUILT-IN BBQ • DISEASE-FREE PLANTS • GROW TOMATOES • HANGING MOSS BALLS • OUTDOOR UPGRADES • MAKE COMPOST

67 STEP-BY-STEP DIY & GARDEN PROJECTS + RECIPES

AUSTRALIAN Handyman

TRANSFORM

HOW TO RENDER
A BRICK WALL FAST

DECORATE

STYLE SECRETS
FOR EVERY BUDGET

grow

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+ COMPOST MADE EASY

DECK
REFRESH
in 3 easy
steps

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steak to perfection



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hardy garden beauties



Install

a built-in BBQ



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tomatoes now

**“Embrace simplicity and
choose designs that are
both beautiful and useful.”**

**SALLY KLOPPER,
SALLY CAROLINE INTERIOR DESIGN**



THE MODA COLLECTION

A door is a statement of what to expect as you enter a room. That's why Sally Klopper of Sally Caroline Interior Design starts with Corinthian's Moda Collection. With 24 timeless designs to choose from, a Moda door will be right at home in your home. To watch Sally talk about her timeless design principles, visit Corinthian.com.au

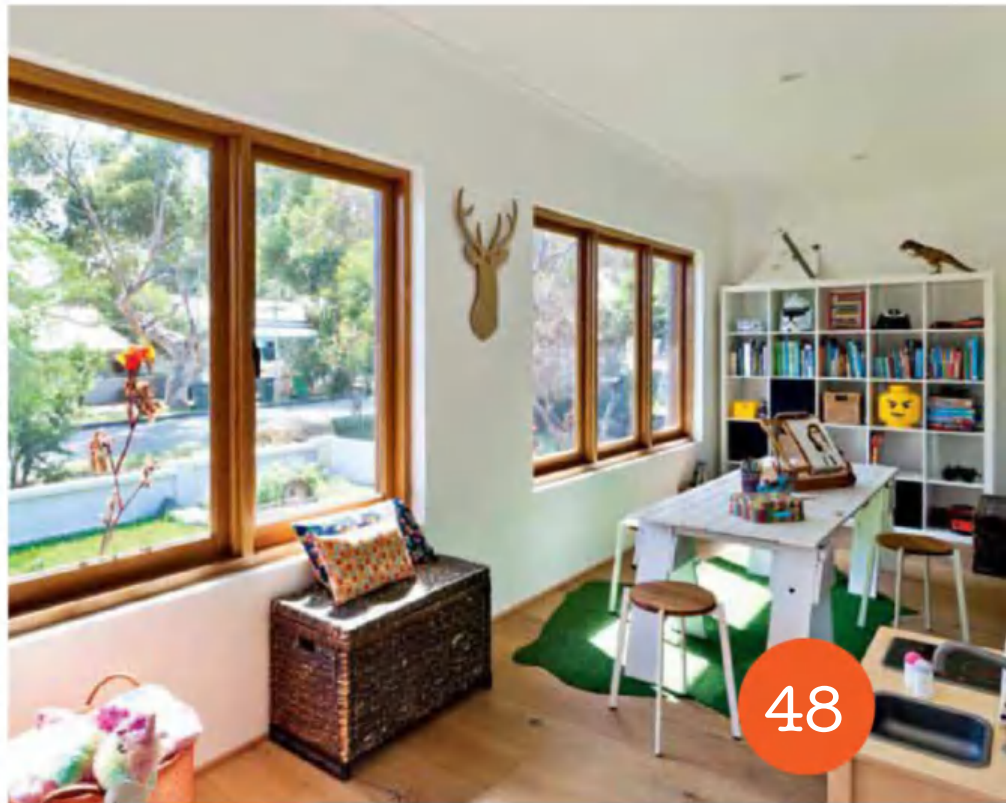


PMOD9

TIMELESS

STARTS WITH CORINTHIAN

NOVEMBER ISSUE



COVER PHOTOGRAPHY STUART SCOTT
STYLING MELINDA COOK

This issue

- 13 HANDY STUFF**
Make the most of the great outdoors with these cool buys
- 18 BUYER'S GUIDE**
Pick the best spray paint for all of your DIY projects

Build

- 22 BACKYARD BBQ BENCH**
Design and build a cooking station
- 30 OUTDOOR CHEF**
Fire up the barbie and dine outside
- 32 BARBIE HEROES**
Tuck into these delicious recipes
- 42 INSTALL A PERGOLA**
Upgrade your deck for summer

Renovate

- 48 FOREVER HOME**
A 1970s brick bungalow gets an innovative makeover
- 58 FROM DRAB TO FAB**
A dated granny flat is transformed to boost rental income
- 62 LAY MOSAIC TILES**
Tile a new bathroom wall DIY to create a decorative effect

page 141



Subscribe
to *Handyman* p80

page 152



Outdoor

64 SURFACE MAKEOVERS

Give exterior features at your place a quick and easy update

77 HOME PLAYGROUND

Provide the kids with hours of fun and activity with these playsets

Decorate

82 STYLE SECRETS

Create the home of your dreams with design tips from an expert

90 TIMELESS POTS

Use lime wash to give a weathered look to plain terracotta planters

93 FESTIVE LIGHTING

Dress up your house with lights and decorations for Christmas

Garden

102 THIS MONTH

Get the garden ready for summer

108 STARTING FROM SCRATCH

A bare yard becomes a veggie patch

114 MAKING MOSS BALLS

Design a beautiful string garden

118 TERRARIUM

Create a mini garden landscape

121 WATER WISELY

Change your watering habits

129 COMPOST FOR FREE

Make your own organic fertiliser

134 PICK THE TOUGH TYPES

Select disease-resistant plants

141 TANTALISING TOMATOES

Grow your best-ever crop

152 5 EXTRAORDINARY USES FOR EGG CARTONS

Create a seed nursery and more



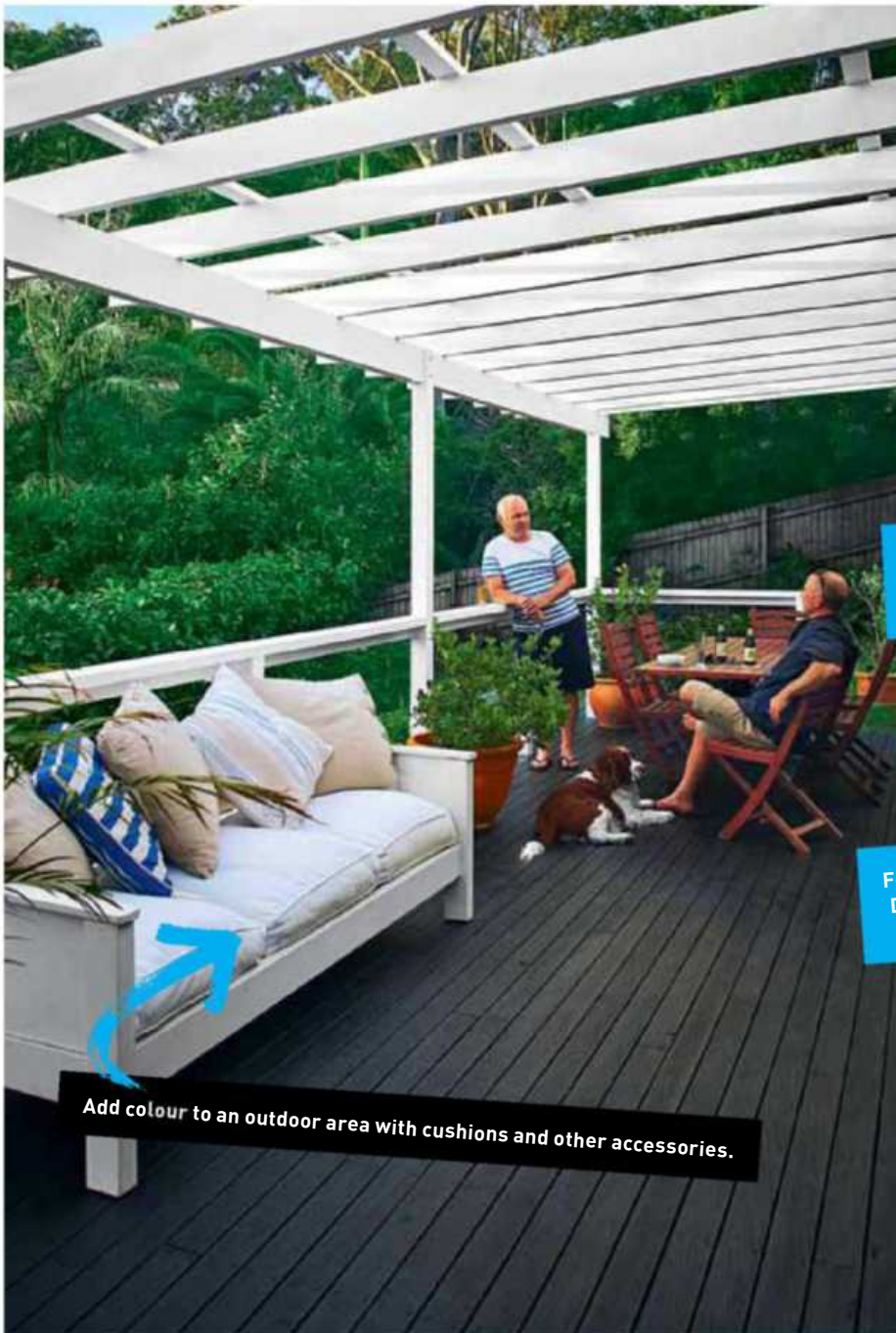


GET THE LOOK

LOVE THE COVER?

To design a relaxed entertaining area, pair a white pergola with dark decking

MAIN PICTURE STUART SCOTT



Add colour to an outdoor area with cushions and other accessories.

For a breezy place to spend lazy days and nights in the summer, install a pergola over the deck.

The white-painted timber offers a striking contrast to the dark stain of the deck, and lets in plenty of light.

Add an outdoor sofa for lounging and a table for eating, softening the space using cushions and pot plants.



200mm Florida Gardenia, \$17, from Bunnings.



Northcote Pottery 11cm Terracotta Squat Pot, about \$3. northcotepottery.com



Feast Watson Black Japan Deck Stain, about \$92 for 4L. feastwatson.com.au



Boyd Blue Nautical Stripe Cushion in Navy, \$265. boydblue.com



Keter Eden Outdoor Storage Bench, \$229. keter.com



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TIMELESS STARTS WITH CORINTHIAN

THE MODA COLLECTION

A door is a statement of what to expect as you enter a room. That's why Sally Klopper of Sally Caroline Interior Design starts with Corinthian's Moda Collection. With 24 timeless designs to choose from, a Moda door will be right at home in your home. To watch Sally talk about her timeless design principles, visit Corinthian.com.au

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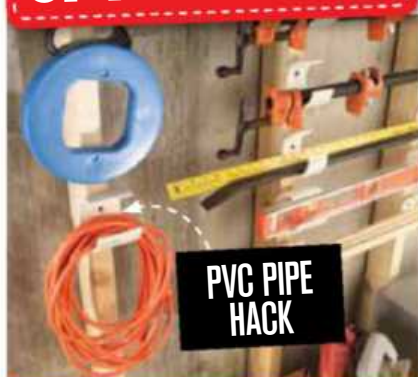
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THIS ISSUE

HANDY HINT OF THE MONTH



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A big congratulations to the Ozito competition winners, from the August issue.

Frank Kavo, NSW; Alex MacAlpine, VIC;
Barbara Thompson, NSW

EDITOR'S LETTER



Do you find that when you spend your weekend DIYing you can end up straining muscles which haven't been used for a while?

This last weekend I was trying to reinvigorate my vegie patch, and all the hauling, digging, forking and raking of the ingredients did a real number on my back.

But it's all good now and the soil already looks so much richer. You see, I'm determined to have my most prolific crops ever this year.

I plan on planting tomatoes as early as possible, as I never seem to have any that ripen before Christmas, so here's a test. I also put up a mini greenhouse and have planted the seeds in trays to get them started.

If you're also inspired to grow your best-ever tomatoes, see horticulturalist Cheryl Maddocks' guide to success with seeds, seedlings and cuttings, which includes advice on getting rid of diseases and pests, on page 141.

Quick fixes

If the front of your house is in need of a refresh, but it's all a bit overwhelming, make it more achievable by breaking the areas down into individual jobs.

These repairs and facelifts not only improve the look of the house, they also help maintain the surfaces so they will last, saving you lots of money in the long term.

We've put together a collection of fast and easy DIY cosmetic makeover projects, including painting the fence, rendering an exterior wall, sealing pavers and refinishing the deck. Check them out, from page 64.

Enjoy the issue,

MANAGING EDITOR
LEE DASHIELL



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

Boost privacy in an indoor or outdoor area with a designer-look Protector Aluminium Decorative Screen.

Choose from Palm (pictured), Bamboo, Geometric, Riverstone and Large Leaf in Off White or Satin Black.

Highly sturdy and easy-to-install, they won't rust, rot or need painting (protectoraluminium.com.au).



Protector Aluminium Decorative Screen, \$159.

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Email: contact@proxaccess.com
Tel: 02 8007 3217
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HANDY STUFF



Chalk it up

Keep kids entertained with the Donkey Products i-Wood My First Laptop, \$50. They'll spend endless hours mimicking you and getting creative on the chalkboard screen and keyboard. The 24 x 35 x 2.5cm device comes complete with chalk.

yellowoctopus.com.au



Wet 'n' wild

Treat the children to the Swing Slide Climb 1.8m Free Standing Water Slide, \$99 (swingslideclimb.com.au). It has a built-in hose connection and is designed for kids aged 3-7.

Rascal recliner

Take tots on trips with the Marquee Children's Camp Chair, \$9. In three fun designs, it has a powdercoated steel frame and leg safety lock.

bunnings.com.au



OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING

Embrace the extra hours of daylight and host a party in the backyard

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT



Give the kids a fun space to escape the sun and rest on a hot day.



Bouncing babes

Get the kids to burn up excess energy together while playing on the Swing Slide Climb Rotating See Saw, \$85 (swingslideclimb.com.au). It holds up to 35kg and can rotate 360°.

Blaze blocker

Save young skin from the sun's UV rays using the Copacabana Circles Sunny Jim Sunshade, \$200. Measuring 1.5m wide by 3.1m long, it has an UPF rating of 50+. The shade can be set up in two ways, depending on the sun's position. ➤

sunnyjim.com.au

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**TIP**

Avoid the cost of a wood-fired pizza oven by using smart barbecue accessories.

Baker box

Try your hand at making gourmet meals at home using the innovative BakerStone Pizza Oven Box, \$149 (bakerstonebox.com). This clever accessory upgrades any three-burner or larger barbecue into a gourmet pizza oven. It also roasts meat, fish and vegetables, and is excellent for baking breads, biscuits and more.

Picnic perfect

Ditch the disaster of broken glass in the grass with the Govino Go Anywhere Wine Glasses, \$30 for four. They're shatterproof, BPA free, reusable and recyclable. Holding up to 475ml, they'll turn any picnic into a party.

govino.com.au

**Pick plate**

End the night on a high note by using the Larder Homeware Acacia Long Serving Platter, \$43, to treat guests to cheese and crackers.

larder.com.au

**Take a dip**

Serve up snacks in style with the Viva La Franki Aqua Talavera Dip Set, \$80 (vivalafranki.com.au). Made in Mexico, the six-piece set is hand painted and 35 x 35 x 6cm in size.

**Skull it**

Make setting the table fun with the addition of the Happiness Place Zebra Jug, from \$45. The ceramic vessel is available in three sizes. >

happinessplace.com.au





Gather round

Dine alfresco on the Mimosa Three-piece Timber Bench Setting, \$599, from Bunnings. Built from sustainable eucalyptus hardwood, it has a weight rating of 270kg.



Hang about

Relax back in a Two Trees Value Double Hammock, \$30. Available in two colours, it is 155cm wide and 220cm long and has a 150kg weight capacity. Made from a cotton polyester blend with colour-fast dyes, it comes in a PVC storage bag.

twotreeshammocks.com.au



Cocktail counter

Impress guests with a Vavoom Emporium Denon Demi Bar in Natural Oak, \$2574. This elegant Danish-designed piece features a storage cupboard, glass hanging rack, bottle rack, pullout pouring shelf and utensil drawer.

vavoom.com.au

Natural defence

Keep biting bugs at bay with the Waxworks Glazed Ceramic Table Top Oil Burner, \$19. The sleek design makes it a stunning centrepiece while the citronella oil discourages mosquitoes for an itch-free backyard barbecue.

waxworksworks.com.au

Crowd pleaser

Fit the family on the Mimosa Six-piece Cococabana Corner Lounge Setting, \$2499, from Bunnings. Designed for durability and comfort, it adds a cosy atmosphere to an outdoor room.



TIP

Provide ambient table lighting and protection from mosquito bites with oil burners.



The DIY pool fence that's ready for summer.

Whether you're updating your old pool or finishing off a new one, you can't go past Everton's range of DIY glass pool fences. Stylish, safe and budget friendly, Everton glass pool fences are ready for you to install in a weekend.

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BUYER'S GUIDE

SPRAY PAINTS

Effect sprays

Neon notice

Highlight hazards with the White Knight Fluoro Colour Orange Spray Paint, \$20 for 300g, which is touch-dry in 10 minutes.



Night light

Guide the way with the White Knight Glow Safe Paint, \$32 for 300g, which glows for eight hours and recharges from light energy.



Copy cat

Upcycle old photo frames with the White Knight Super Chrome Paint, \$22 for 300g, for a shiny chrome-like, fast-drying finish.



Dinted delight

Hide surface imperfections on metal, wood or plastic with the Dulux Metalshield Hammered Finish, \$13 for 300g.



Battered finish

Get a dimpled effect using the Dy-Mark Revolution Copper Hammered Fast Dry Paint, \$11 for 325g, for a high-end finish.



Alloy art

Make over old metal items using the White Knight Brass Metal Guard Spray Paint, \$26 for 300g, for a durable, antique-look finish.



Pick from this wide range of easy-to-use specialty aerosols and get creative on any DIY project

WORDS ASHLEIGH PERRIOTT

Garden guru

Mark out the makeover of the backyard with the Dy-Mark Landscape Chalk, \$9 for 350g, for 30 days of site planning.

Fun sprays

Teacher's pet

Create an area for the kids to draw using the White Knight Chalkboard Paint in Green, \$14 for 300g.

Good grip

Make rapid repairs anywhere in the home using the durable, clear Selleys Kwik Grip Contact Adhesive, \$10 for 150g.

Lock it in

Seal paintings, decoupage and other art projects with the oil-based, clear Boyle Gloss Spray Sealer, \$16 for 400g.

Lawn layout

Mark up a cricket pitch quick with the Dy-Mark Turf Master, \$9 for 500g, designed for use with the Dy-Mark Line Master.

Make a mark

Apply the low-toxic Dy-Mark Spray & Mark Water-based Yellow Paint, \$8 for 350g, at any angle using the 360° nozzle.

Protection sprays

Seal the deal

Cover and block stains with the high opacity formula of White Knight Stain Stop Sealer, \$13 for 300g, before repainting.



Prime time

Skip sanding and apply Flood ESP Easy Surface Prep Spray, \$16 for 300g, to prime slick or glossy non-porous surfaces.



Quick cover

Get twice the coverage in a single pass using the Rust-Oleum 2X Ultra Cover Flat White Primer, \$11 for 340g.



Tough stuff

Provide a protective layer on art, craft or photos with Dulux Duramax Gloss Clear Coat, about \$12 for 340g.



Metal mender

Prevent rust on joints and cracks and protect metal with the White Knight Rust Guard Prep Fish Oil, \$14 for 300g.



Finish fixer

Give old fridges a facelift using the White Knight Fridge & Appliance White Spray Paint, \$20 for 300g, with a gloss finish.



Get a grip

Create soft-touch tool handles with the Rust-Oleum Matt Black Peel Coat Removable Rubber Coating, \$20 for 312g.



Speed sheen

Protect projects with Dy-Mark Revolution Clear Enamel Paint, \$13 for 325g, which resists cracking, chipping and peeling.



Flame fighter

Touch up an old oven or slow-combustion stove with the White Knight Hi Temp White Heat Resistant Paint, \$22 for 300g.



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BACKYARD BBQ BENCH

Install a dedicated barbecue area for year-round outdoor entertaining

PROJECT AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

The trusty old barbie in this backyard had seen better days and was just sitting in a little-used corner.

Instead of swapping it for a new model with a trolley, we designed and built a dedicated outdoor cooking spot.

Here, we extended the existing slab and laid lightweight concrete blocks to create a cooking station.

It features an area for a four-burner barbecue and a benchtop for prep, with space underneath for a gas bottle. ➤



A good barbecue is at the heart of most Aussie backyard gatherings over the summer months

**HEBEL
BLOCKS**

The walls of the bench were built using 600 x 200 x 200mm Hebel blocks.

For the benchtops, Hebel panels of 1200 x 600 x 75mm were installed and 600 x 200 x 75mm blocks were used to create a level change and a return.

Hebel blocks are made of autoclaved aerated concrete (AAC), which is about

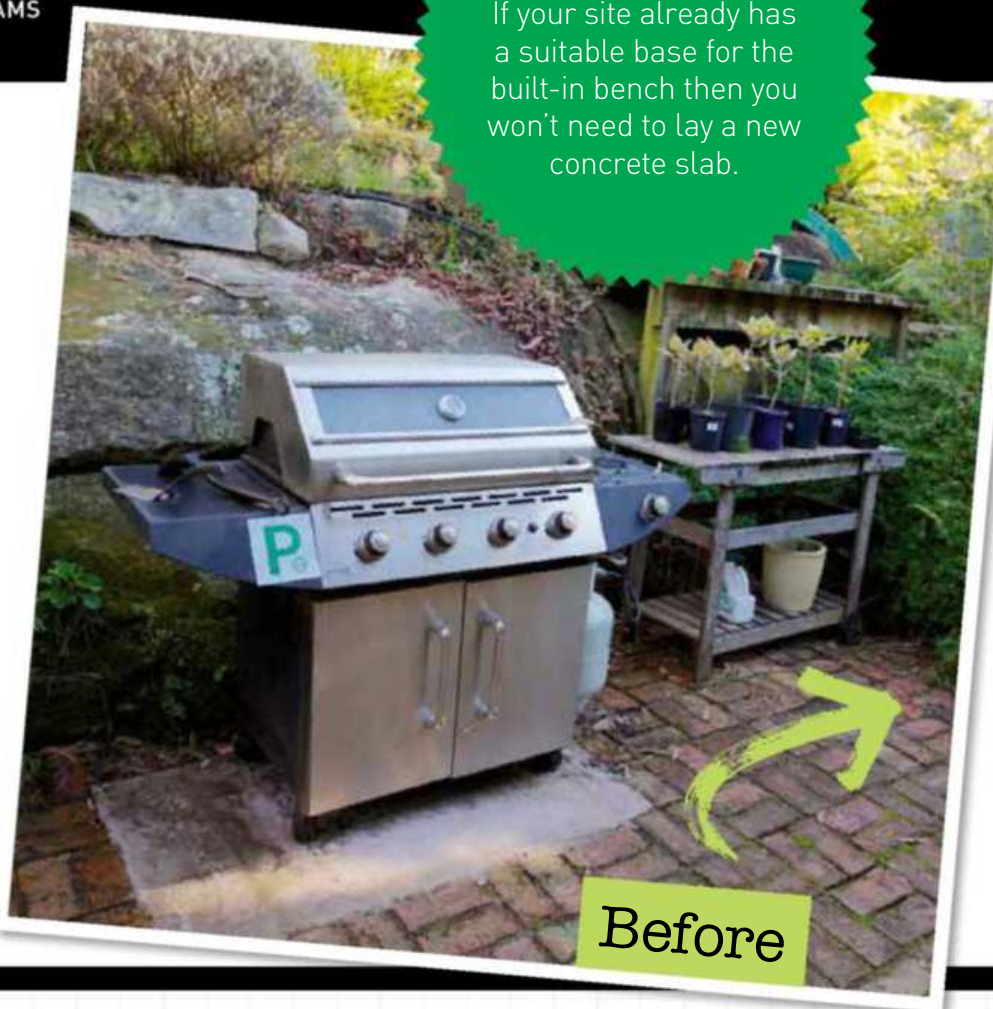
20% the weight of traditional concrete. AAC can be cut, drilled, sanded and even carved, and is very easy to handle.

They are very light, as each block is filled with air pockets and doesn't contain any aggregate or blue metal.

Being easy to work and durable makes AAC ideal for a DIY job like this.

DIY TIP

If your site already has a suitable base for the built-in bench then you won't need to lay a new concrete slab.



Before

2
DAYS\$772
COST

After

Painted in an earthy tone and with a mosaic top, the new built-in barbie bench is a design feature.

Materials

Hebel blocks, panels	\$310
Hebel adhesive, mortar, render	\$80
Reinforcing mesh, bar chairs	\$71
Premixed concrete	\$7
150mm Bugle-headed batten screws	\$15
Mosaic tile sheets	\$63
Grout	\$9
Exterior paints	\$167
Bondcrete	\$45
Masonry anchors	\$5
TOTAL	\$772

BUILD THE BBQ BENCH



1 Mark the site

Use a tape measure and line marking paint to mark the area to create or extend the slab, here 700 x 2400mm.

TIP Hebel blocks still need a stable footing despite being made from lightweight AAC material.



2 Level the area

Remove any paving and soil to a depth of about 100mm. Bring the area to level using a square-mouthed shovel. Add formwork around the edges to the height of the desired finish of the concrete to make screeding easy.



3 Install the mesh

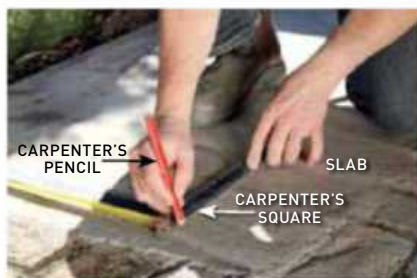
Measure reinforcing mesh to fit in the slab area so it sits 30mm in from the edges, then cut with an angle grinder. Position the mesh on plastic chairs, starting in the corners and keeping the mesh level and off the soil.



4 Pour the concrete

Mix concrete in a wheelbarrow in batches and pour carefully so the mesh stays in position. Bring to level with the shovel, then screed with a straightedge to smooth and eliminate air pockets.

TIP We used bagged premixed concrete.



5 Mark the block locations

Allow the concrete to cure for 3-5 days, then mark out the locations of the block walls. Use a large carpenter's square for the angles at the corners.

TIP Mark the lines based on the position of the outside faces of the blockwork.



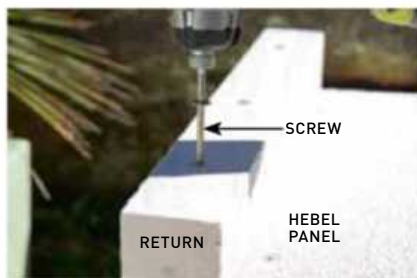
6 Add the damp course

Roll out the damp course using the marked lines as a guide, any overlap can easily be trimmed off later. Cut the Hebel blocks to fit the size of the wall with a handsaw, wearing a dust mask appropriate for cutting AAC.



7 Lay the blocks

Position the base course of blocks for a left, right, centre and back wall on a bed of mortar. Lay each course using a notch trowel to spread a thin bed of adhesive. Press the blocks together, removing excess adhesive at the joints.



8 Add the first panel

Align a panel with the external corner of the left wall, securing with adhesive and screws. Cut a return from a 75mm block, gluing and screwing to the panel. Lay a course of 75mm blocks to bring the right wall level with the panel.



9 Finish the blockwork

Add a panel to the right side on a bed of adhesive, flush with the external edges of the walls, securing with screws. To remove sharp corners and trim off any excess adhesive, work along the block edges with a surform block plane. ➤

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FINISHING TOUCHES

When you have built the barbecue bench, wait for the adhesive to dry then apply render to the Hebel-block walls and paint in a colour to suit the scene. For this project, we used Dulux Weathershield in Mexican Standoff.

Mosaic sheets in a geometric pattern were laid on the Hebel panels to create tiled benchtops.

And because a concrete slab can look unfinished, we gave it several coats of a resurfacing paint.

To keep a few cooking utensils convenient for barbecuing, a hook rail was attached to the wall in the storage area under the bench.



Render and paint turns a concrete block structure into a custom-designed outdoor-living hub

DESIGN TIP

Create the right atmosphere in an outdoor entertaining area with a good-quality portable sound system.



Bose SoundLink Mini Bluetooth Speaker II, \$299. bose.com.au

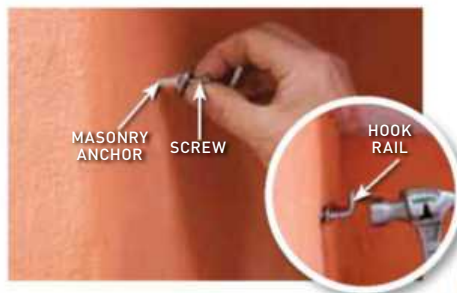
1 2

HANGING TOOL RAIL Ideal for storing cooking essentials, like tongs and spatulas, we installed a three-hook rail on the inside wall of the barbie bench.



1 Mark the holes

Position the hook rail where it is to be attached and check for level with a spirit level, marking the hole positions. Use a texta or painter's tape to mark the depth you need to drill on the shank of the drill bit.



2 Attach the rail

Drill the holes to the required depth, then insert the masonry anchors part way. Position the hook rail, insert the screws through the rail holes and push into position, hammering the screws into the masonry anchors.



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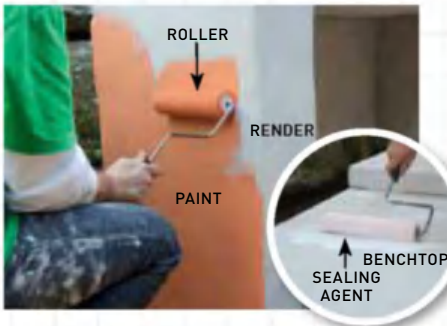
1 Render the walls

Apply Hebel render to the block wall using a trowel and hawk. Load the hawk with render, using the trowel to push the render onto the block wall surface in an upward motion. Bring the render to a smooth finish with the trowel.



2 Wipe the surface

Use a moist renderer's sponge to wipe the surface and bring it to a smooth, even finish, ensuring that it is clean and free of any dust or dirt. Allow the render to cure for at least three days before painting the surface.



3 Paint the render

When the render has fully cured, apply a coat of exterior acrylic to the surface of the rendered walls using a roller. Let it dry completely, then apply a second coat. Apply a sealing and bonding agent to the benchtops using a roller.



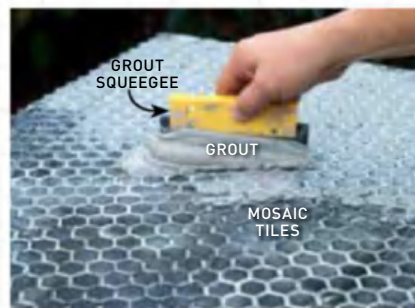
4 Resurface the slab

Mask the borders with painter's tape to protect the surrounding area. Apply a coat of resurfacing paint to the slab using a long-nap roller, and a brush for hard-to-reach spots. Allow it to dry completely, then apply a second coat.



5 Lay the tile sheets

Spread tile adhesive over each benchtop with a notch trowel, starting at a corner. Cut the tile sheets to size with a utility knife, or use snips to trim edge or corner tiles. Lay the sheets, ensuring they are correctly aligned.



6 Grout the tiles

Allow the tile adhesive to set, then apply an exterior-grade grout, using a rubber grout squeegee to push it firmly into the corners. Clean the tiles with a wet sponge once the grout is dry, then use a diluted cleaning acid. ➤

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Before

After



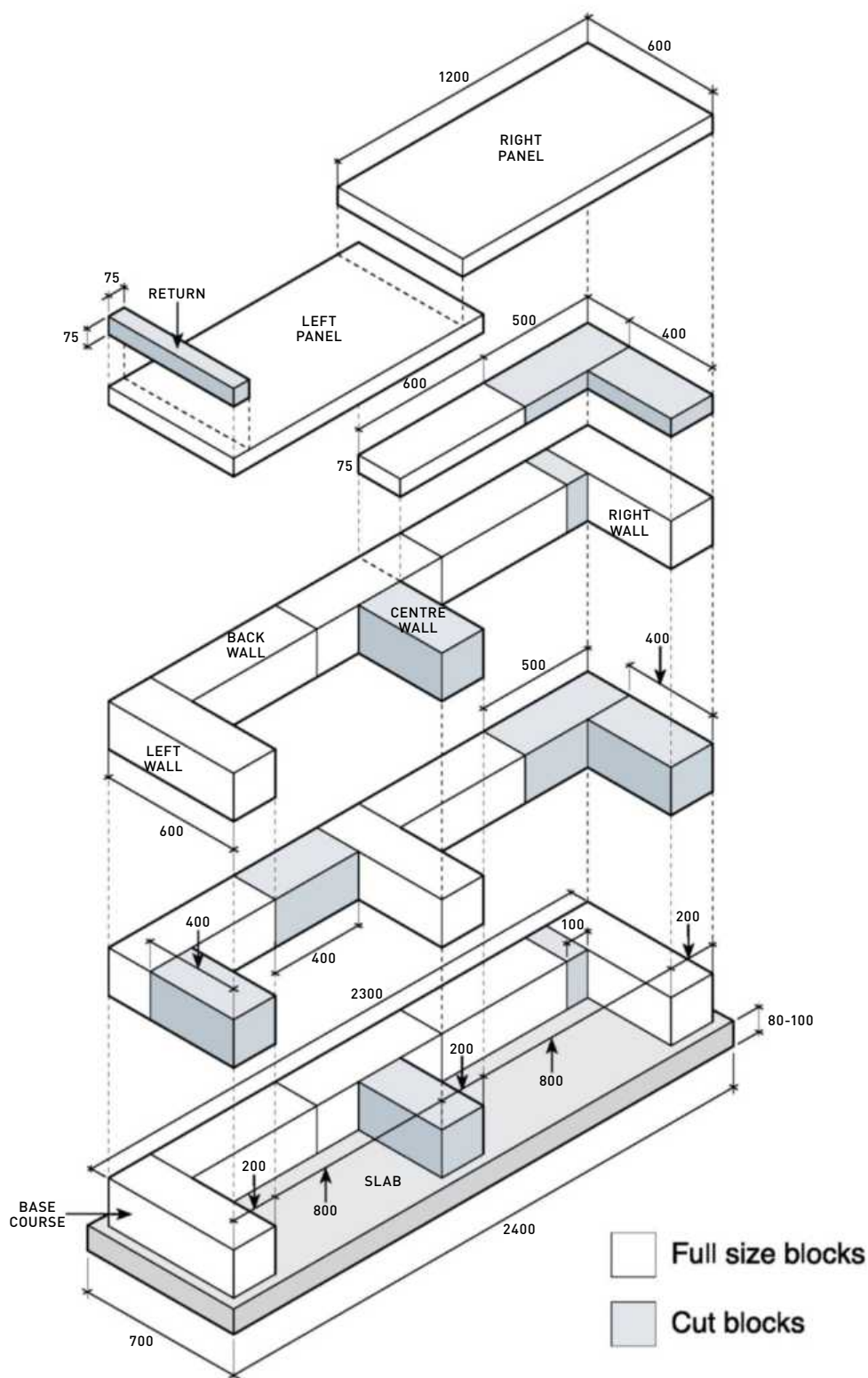
Cabot's

www.cabots.com.au



BARBECUE BENCH

measurements in mm



Ryobi One+ 18V Hybrid Shoplight, \$99, skin only. ryobi.com.au



Gourmet grill
Make the most of the new bench with a barbecue that slots seamlessly into the space.

We chose a four-burner barbecue with a stainless steel hood, large hotplate and grill.

And in an unlit outdoor area, make sure the sun going down doesn't stop the barbie by using our handy trick of setting up a portable workshop light. ☛



Matador Boss Four-burner Built-in Barbecue, \$699. matadorbbqs.com.au

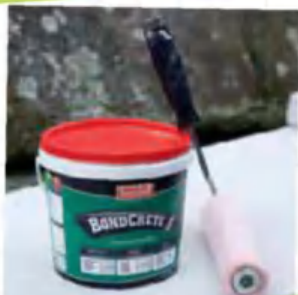
ADAM'S PICKS



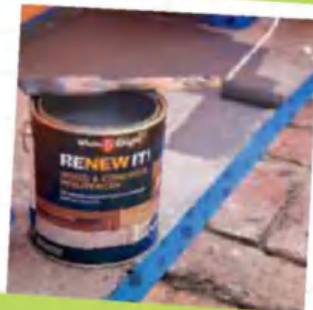
Whites On-Site 50-65mm Plastic Reinforcing Bar Chairs, \$30 for 100. whitesgroup.com.au



Ramset 6 x 42mm Brick EasyDrive Masonry Anchors, about \$5 for four. ramset.com.au



Bondall BondCrete Universal Bonding Agent, \$45 for 4L. bondall.com



White Knight Renew It! Wood & Concrete Resurfacer, \$77 for 4L. whiteknightpaints.com.au

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For protecting walls subjected to wear-and-tear, New Wash&Wear® +Plus Super Tough is a two-pack Diamond Tough® epoxy that provides ultimate resistance to scrapes, scratches and scrubbing. Just mix part A into part B, and then apply as you would with normal paint for a low sheen finish that gives extra protection.

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OUTDOOR CHEF

Being able to dine outside is one of the best things about the longer and warmer days of spring



The perfect barbecue for serious chefs, an outdoor kitchen is made for all those big occasions and will have you cooking alfresco every night.

They can come with everything you need to cook up an amazing feast, including bench space for preparation, a sink, cabinet storage, extra side burner, a fridge and even a rotisserie.



Matador Artiste Four-burner Kitchen, \$1899.



Matador Supernova Six-burner Kitchen, \$2700.

PIZZA OVEN

Pizza or wood-fired ovens are a great way to entertain outside. You can use them to make pizzas and bread, plus cook roasts, vegies or even desserts in a matter of minutes.

TIP Keep a supply of wood on hand and preheat for an hour before cooking.

Matador Boss Four-burner Barbecue, \$869.

BARBECUE

Upgrade your barbecue to make the most of your outdoor space over summer.

They come in a range of two, four or six-burners in a variety of options to suit your lifestyle.

Chapala Large BBQ Pizza Oven, \$549.

CHARCOAL GRILL

Charcoal grills are a favourite with barbecue enthusiasts because of the unique flavour, meat tenderness and cooking experience they provide.

Choose an insulated charcoal grill, as they retain moisture and heat more effectively than other types.

SPIT ROASTER

Jumbuck 130 x 60 x 106cm BBQ Spit Roaster, \$238.

Spit roasters are ideal for achieving slow, even cooking of large pieces of meat like a suckling pig or a roast over a wood or heatbead-fuelled fire.

For every 45 minutes of cooking, you may need to add more fuel to keep it burning and ensure a consistent temperature is maintained.

CharGriller Akorn Kamado Kooker, \$499.



BARBIE HEROES

Get stuck into these everyday recipes from the Tooheys Cooking Handbook

When it comes to the Tooheys man, barbecue isn't a way of cooking, it's a way of life.

When the weather warms up, his backyard becomes a kitchen, and he becomes a master chef. So with tongs in one hand and a cold glass of Tooheys in the other, it's time to get out there and fire up the barbie. ➤



Handy guide to the perfect steak

Learning to cook the perfect steak is a rite of passage, something any man worth his salt knows how to do. There are loads of different schools of thought, but we'll tell you right now, if you're using

a thermometer, you're doing it wrong. You only need two things – your left hand, and your right.

For a perfect, juicy steak every time, simply follow these handy instructions. The firmness you feel on the ball of your hand indicates the doneness of your steak.

RARE/BLUE



MEDIUM-RARE



MEDIUM



MEDIUM WELL-DONE



WELL-DONE



Old marinated steak

Don't worry, the steak's not old, but the beer's been around since 1869.

This is one of those recipes your mates will bug you for next time you have a barbie. It's up to you if you want to share it, but we don't mind if you claim it as your own.

PREP TIME 15 minutes
+ 4 hours marinating
COOKING TIME 6 minutes

Ingredients

375ml bottle Tooheys Old Dark Ale
1 cup tomato sauce
3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
3 tablespoons brown sugar
2 garlic cloves, crushed
12 thyme sprigs
4 x 250g rump steaks
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
Green salad and bread, to serve
Tooheys mustard, to serve

BBQ TIP

To transform the excess marinade into a sauce, bring it to the boil in a small saucepan, then simmer for 5 minutes until slightly thickened.

Method

- 1 **COMBINE** the Tooheys Old Dark Ale, sauces, sugar, garlic and thyme in a shallow ceramic or glass dish. Add the steaks and turn to coat. Cover and marinate in the fridge for at least 4 hours.
- 2 **PREHEAT** a barbecue grill or flat plate over medium-high heat. Drain the steaks of the marinade and pat dry with paper towel. Brush with oil and cook for 3 minutes on each side for medium-rare.
- 3 **SERVE** with salad and bread with Tooheys mustard (recipe below) to smear over the steak. ➤

Tooheys mustard

PREP TIME 20 minutes
+ overnight soaking
MAKES about 2½ cups

Ingredients

2/3 cup black mustard seeds
1/2 cup yellow mustard seeds
1/2 cup malt vinegar
1 cup Tooheys New
1 tablespoon caster sugar
1 teaspoon salt
Pinch of ground turmeric
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 tablespoon olive oil

Method

- 1 **SOAK** the mustard seeds in the vinegar and beer overnight in a glass bowl. (The seeds should absorb all of the liquid.)
- 2 **PUT** the seed mixture into a food processor and process a bit to crush the seeds slightly. You might need to do this in a couple of batches. Transfer the mixture to a clean bowl.
- 3 **PUT** the sugar, salt, turmeric and garlic into the food processor with 1/3 cup of the seed mixture. Blend well until slightly creamy, then add the remaining seed mixture.
- 4 **WITH** the motor running, slowly pour the oil down the feed tub. Spoon into sterilised jars and leave in a cool, dark place for four weeks before using. Once opened, keep in the fridge for up to two months.

Serves 4



 See more BBQ recipes
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BBQ TIP

If you have the chance to cook the beef on the barbecue, do it. Why? Because any excuse to fire up the barbie is a good one, obviously.

Beefy Thai salad

Every now and then you eat something that makes you want to high-five your tastebuds. This is one of those times.

Don't let the long ingredients list scare you. This beefy salad is dead-set one of the easiest, tastiest meals you'll ever make.

PREP TIME 30 minutes
+ 1 hour marinating
COOKING TIME 4 minutes

Ingredients

600g rump steak
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1 carrot, cut into thin matchsticks
1/2 red onion, finely sliced
1 red capsicum, finely sliced
1 Lebanese cucumber, sliced
125g bean sprouts
80g mixed salad leaves
Handful each of fresh mint and coriander leaves
1/4 cup unsalted roasted cashews, roughly chopped
➤ **MARINADE**
1/3 cup fish sauce
2 tablespoons lime juice
1 1/2 tablespoons brown sugar
2cm piece fresh ginger, peeled and grated
2 tablespoons chopped coriander
1 red chilli, deseeded, finely chopped
1 garlic clove, crushed

➤ DRESSING

1 tablespoon each soy sauce, lime juice and fish sauce
2 teaspoons caster sugar
4 spring onions, finely sliced
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1-2 red chillies, deseeded and finely chopped

Serves 4

Method

➊ **FOR** the marinade, combine the ingredients in a shallow ceramic or glass dish. Add the steak and turn to coat. Cover and marinate in the fridge for about an hour.
➋ **TO MAKE** the dressing, combine the ingredients in a small screw-top jar. Seal tightly and shake well to combine. Set aside until needed.
➌ **PREHEAT** a chargrill pan over high heat. Drain the steak of the marinade and pat dry with paper

towel. Brush the oil over both sides of the meat. Cook for 2 minutes each side, then transfer to a board and rest for 2 minutes. Cut across the grain into thin slices.

➍ **TOSS** the vegies and herbs together with 1 tablespoon of the dressing and arrange on a large platter. Top with the steak, drizzle with 1 tablespoon of the dressing and sprinkle the cashews over the top. Serve straightaway, with remaining dressing on the side. ➤





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MATADOR

**THE SIGN OF A
GREAT BBQ**

Sticky barbecued ribs

Tender, meaty, sticky and smoky, our baked and basted ribs are the best things this side of the border. They're pretty messy, so it's perfectly acceptable to throw on a bib when getting stuck into these bad boys.

PREP TIME 20 minutes

+ 1 hour marinating

COOKING TIME 1 hour 10 minutes

Ingredients

1kg pork ribs
375ml bottle Tooheys Old
1/4 cup orange juice
1 cup smoky barbecue sauce
1/3 cup malt vinegar
6 garlic cloves, crushed
1 tablespoon finely grated fresh ginger

Method

① **CUT** the ribs into smaller racks of 4-6 ribs. Mix together the Tooheys Old, orange juice, barbecue sauce, malt vinegar, garlic and ginger. Pour into a sealable plastic bag, add the spare ribs, seal and toss to coat. Place in the fridge to marinate for at least an hour, or overnight.

② **TRANSFER** the ribs and their marinade to a large wide saucepan. Cover and bring to a simmer over low heat. Cook very gently for 1 hour, turning the ribs occasionally to make sure they are covered in the liquid. Remove the ribs from the pan. Increase the heat to medium-high and cook the remaining marinade for 10 minutes or until reduced and thickened slightly to make a sauce.

③ **PREHEAT** a barbecue grill over medium-high heat. Cook the ribs for 5-10 minutes, turning occasionally, until well browned. Brush with the sauce occasionally during cooking. ➤

Serves 4

BBQ TIP

If you don't have a barbecue, you can cook this in an oven at 180°C. Seriously though, don't you think it's time you got a barbie?

Serves 4

Beer can chicken

The best thing about this recipe, besides the mouth-watering chicken, is finding out which tinny you reckon works best. Beer-basting the chook from the inside out provides what can only be described as 'epicness'.

Why are you still reading this? Go and fire up the barbie.

PREP TIME 15 minutes

COOKING TIME 1½ hours

Ingredients

375ml can of your favourite Tooheys beer
1 tablespoon sweet chilli sauce
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon oyster sauce
1 whole chicken (about 1.8kg)

Method

① **PREHEAT** a covered barbecue to medium heat (about 180°C). Pour half the beer from the can into a glass. Mix the three sauces with a splash from the glass of beer. Drink the rest of the beer in the glass.

② **RINSE** the chicken inside and out, and pat dry with paper towel. Insert the half-full can into the cavity of the chicken and stand it in a baking dish. The legs and the can should form a reasonably stable tripod so that the chicken will stand upright. Brush the beer and sauce mixture all over the chicken.

③ **STAND** the baking dish on the barbecue plate. Lower the hood. Cook for 1¼-1½ hours, basting regularly, until the skin is golden brown and crispy. The drumstick will move easily when the chicken is cooked.

④ **TAKE** the baking dish off the barbie. Set aside to rest for 5 minutes. Gently lay the chicken on its side and remove the beer can (be careful as the can will be hot). The meat should just about fall off the bone as you carve the chicken. 🍴



These mouth-watering barbecue recipes were taken from the *Tooheys Cooking Handbook* (\$40, Ebury Press). Available now from all good booksellers and online retailers.

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TOOLS
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**4
DAYS**

**\$2445
COST**

Materials

Laminated pine	\$625
Structural F7 pine	\$1008
DAR pine	\$309
90mm galvanised stirrups	\$21
Coach screws, washers	\$27
Anchor bolts	\$21
Coach bolts, nuts, washers	\$65
Batten screws	\$56
Chemical adhesive	\$34
Stainless steel screw eyes	\$47
Primer, paint, sealer	\$232
TOTAL	\$2445

After

The new pergola provides a great space for summer entertaining.

INSTALL A PERGOLA

Create a covered area for entertaining and give your home a fabulous facelift

PROJECT AND PICTURES STUART SCOTT

The west-facing deck of this house was exposed to the harsh summer sun.

Adding a pergola was the ideal solution, meaning that climbers can be grown over it to provide shade, while letting in the light in winter.

Before you begin building, make sure the timber sizes meet Australian standards and also check if council approval is necessary.

An engineer's report to establish loads, footing requirements and correct fixing methods for your area may also be necessary.

TIMBER TYPES

We used Woodhouse Weatherproof Pink Primed LOSP Architectural Pine, which is treated to H3 level to be termite- and fungal-resistant (woodhouse-weatherproof.com.au).

Finished with a premium exterior paint, it will last for years.

➤ **POSTS** are 88 x 88mm GL8 laminated pine.

➤ **FRONT BEAM** is 185 x 65mm GL8 laminated pine.

➤ **RAFTERS AND LEDGER BEAM** are 138 x 42mm structural F7 pine.

➤ **BATTENS AND HANDRAIL BRACE** are 63 x 30mm DAR pine.

Three posts from the existing balustrade were replaced with posts that carried the roof load to the ground. Two front beams were added to carry the rafters, set at a 5° fall, and topped with five battens.

On the house wall, the rafters are supported by the ledger beam, which is attached to the house frame with coach screws and washers. ➤

Before

BUILD THE PERGOLA



1 Set the post positions

Plumb a line to the ground and set out the new footings. Dig the post holes, install formwork and check for level. Pour the concrete, smooth with a float and let cure for 24 hours. Attach the stirrups to the posts with coach bolts.



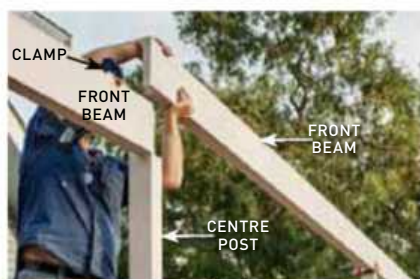
2 Anchor the posts

Plumb the posts on the footings, clamp to the deck bearer and mark the hole positions on the footings, removing the posts to drill 12 x 100mm holes. Secure the posts to the footings with anchor bolts. Fix to the bearer with coach bolts.



3 Mark the post heights

Brace the posts and set a stringline at 2.2m for the beam. Mark the position of the beam on each post using a beam offcut. Remove posts, cut to length then cut the beam housings with a saw. Seal the cuts. Fit posts and check for plumb.



4 Secure the beams

Square a line 85mm from one end of each beam, set a power saw to 32.5mm and cut a rebate on each. Overlap beams at the centre post, clamp and drill 12mm clearance holes through the posts, securing with coach bolts.



5 Notch the rafters

Dock a 5° angle on the rafters, clamp with the base edges facing up, squaring the cut ends. Mark lines 38mm and 45mm from the ends. Cut along the lines with a power saw set to a 5° bevel at these depths. Chisel out the waste.



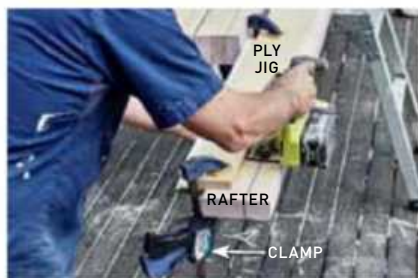
6 Attach the ledger beam

Position a rafter over the beam, lift into position on the wall and confirm 5° fall. Position a ledger offcut in the rafter notch and mark. Use the mark to set the ledger level, securing at every second stud with screws and washers.



7 Set out the rafters

Measure the overall pergola width and calculate the rafter spacing, setting out on the ledger using a spacer block. Mark and number the rafter positions. Square a line up from the inside of the front beam to mark each rafter position.



8 Cut the rafters

Remove the rafters, leaving the first. Level a 665mm line from the inside front beam mark towards the outside of rafter. Square the end plumb. Remove, cut and use to make a ply jig. Clamp jig to rafters and cut matching profiles.



9 Secure the rafters

Position the rafters and clamp, securing with two screws at each end. Space the battens evenly, 63mm in from the rafter ends, and overhanging 63mm each side. Start with the middle batten, using the rafter spacer. Secure with screws. ➤

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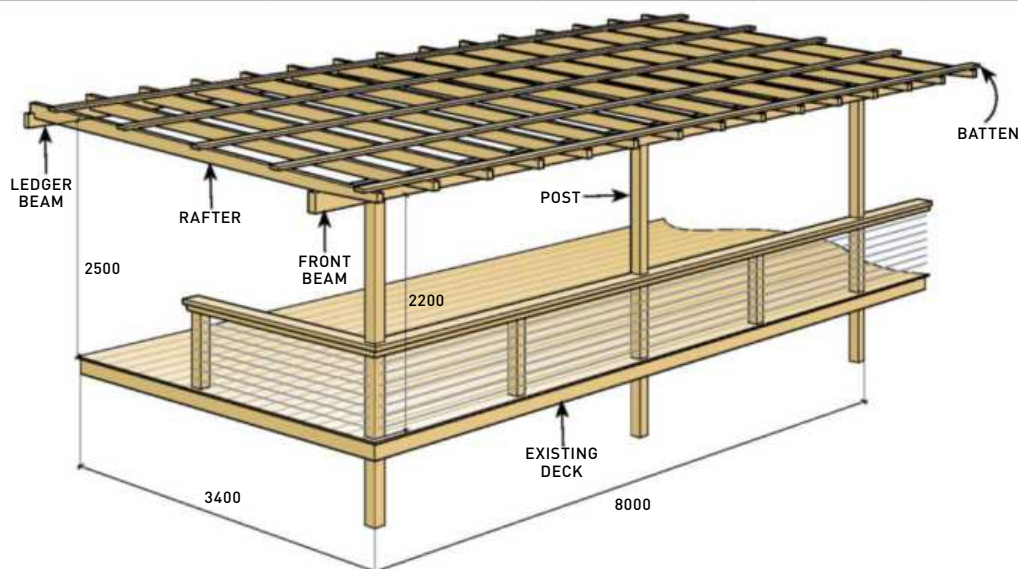
.com.au

CREATING WAVES FOR POOL SAFETY



PERGOLA AND HANDRAIL

measurements in mm



SPACING THE RAFTERS

To work out the rafter spacing for the pergola, use this formula.

Overall width - (number of rafters x width of rafter) ÷ number of spaces = space width.

For this project, $8000 - (15 \times 42) \div 14 = 526$.

FASTENERS

TYPE	USE
Galvanised coach bolts, M12 x 120mm	Posts, front beam
Galvanised coach bolts, M12 x 180mm	Bearer
Galvanised anchor bolts, M10 x 130mm	Stirrups

Galvanised coach screws, M10 x 130mm	Ledger beam
Galvanised batten screws, 14-10g x 85mm	Rafters, handrail
Galvanised batten screws, 14-10g x 75mm	Battens, brace

1 2 3

ATTACH THE HARDWARE Before starting the pergola build, the existing deck fascia, handrail and selected posts were removed. The old handrail was modified by adding a DAR pine brace to the outside of the pergola posts.



1 Reattach the handrail

Secure the brace to the outside of the posts using screws. Notch the handrail around the posts, setting it flush on the inside, then secure the handrail to the brace from underneath using batten screws.



2 Apply the finish

Fill any drill holes with exterior timber filler, sanding flush when dry. Refinish these areas if the exterior treatment has been compromised. Dust down the structure, then finish with two coats of an exterior paint.



3 Refit the balustrade

Mark the positions of the wire balustrading at even spacings on the pergola posts. Attach the wire balustrading that was previously removed to the outside of the posts using stainless steel screw eyes.



Use an APVMA registered timber preservative to re-treat and follow this with a water-based primer to restore the treatment. 🌱



The diagram illustrates the assembly of a deck railing system. At the top, a horizontal section shows a **LEDGER BEAM** attached to a wall, with **BATTEN** and **RAFTER** components. A vertical **FRONT BEAM** is shown with a dimension of **600**. The main vertical section shows a **POST** with a **HANDRAIL** and **BRACE** attached. **SCREW EYE** fasteners are shown along the post. A **DECK** is shown with a **COACH BOLT** and **EXISTING DECK BEARER**. A **STIRRUP** is shown at the base of the post, which is anchored into a **CONCRETE FOOTING**.



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FOREVER HOME

A 1970s brick bungalow is given a new lease of family life with an innovative and thoughtful renovation

WORDS SITA SIMONS



PICTURES: HEATHER ROBBINS, RED IMAGES FINE PHOTOGRAPHY

The front of the house was opened up to allow light to flood into the previously heavy and dark interior.

Although happy living in Fremantle, WA, Emma and Martyn Potter and their family were rapidly running out of space.

'There was no great pressure to move. I wanted to find our forever home, where the kids would grow up. This meant there were elements I felt we had to have, so I knew we had to give it time,' says Emma.

Little did she realise the home she was dreaming of was down the road but looked nothing like she'd imagined.

In the style of the era, the 1970s brick bungalow came complete with pillars, stone lions, endless arches and a backyard encased in concrete.

So when the house came up for sale, Emma wasn't convinced.

'It was so far removed from what I wanted, I just couldn't see it,' she says.

They were advised by builders and architects to bulldoze it, but the couple chose to proceed as owner-builders.

'The house was so solid we couldn't bring ourselves to knock it down. But it was ugly. Everything was brown and olive green with orange slate-look sandstone floor tiling,' says Emma.

'There was a jarrah bar and jarrah kitchen cabinets and benchtops. These are all beautiful materials, but together they were dated and absorbed the limited light that could get in.' ➤



Homes from the 1970s were built to last, but the idea of renovating can be so difficult that many people bulldoze them and start again

Family spaces

Widening the entrance hall set the tone for the expansive feel of the home.

'This was one of those decisions it would've been easy not to make, as it took a lot of money and effort to move the wall. But it's maybe the aspect I am most glad of,' says Emma.

'Entering the house and having that feeling of space and volume instantly makes me happy to be home.'

In keeping with the original era, Emma has turned her stylist's eye to bold touches that have a distinctly retro feel but with a modern treatment.

'We are far from being a quiet and reserved family, so I like to decorate

in a way that reflects our values, fun and a bit loud,' says Emma.

The old plain kitchen, which was originally accessed through an archway, has been renovated in a warm, simple style with sleek white cabinetry and plenty of storage space.

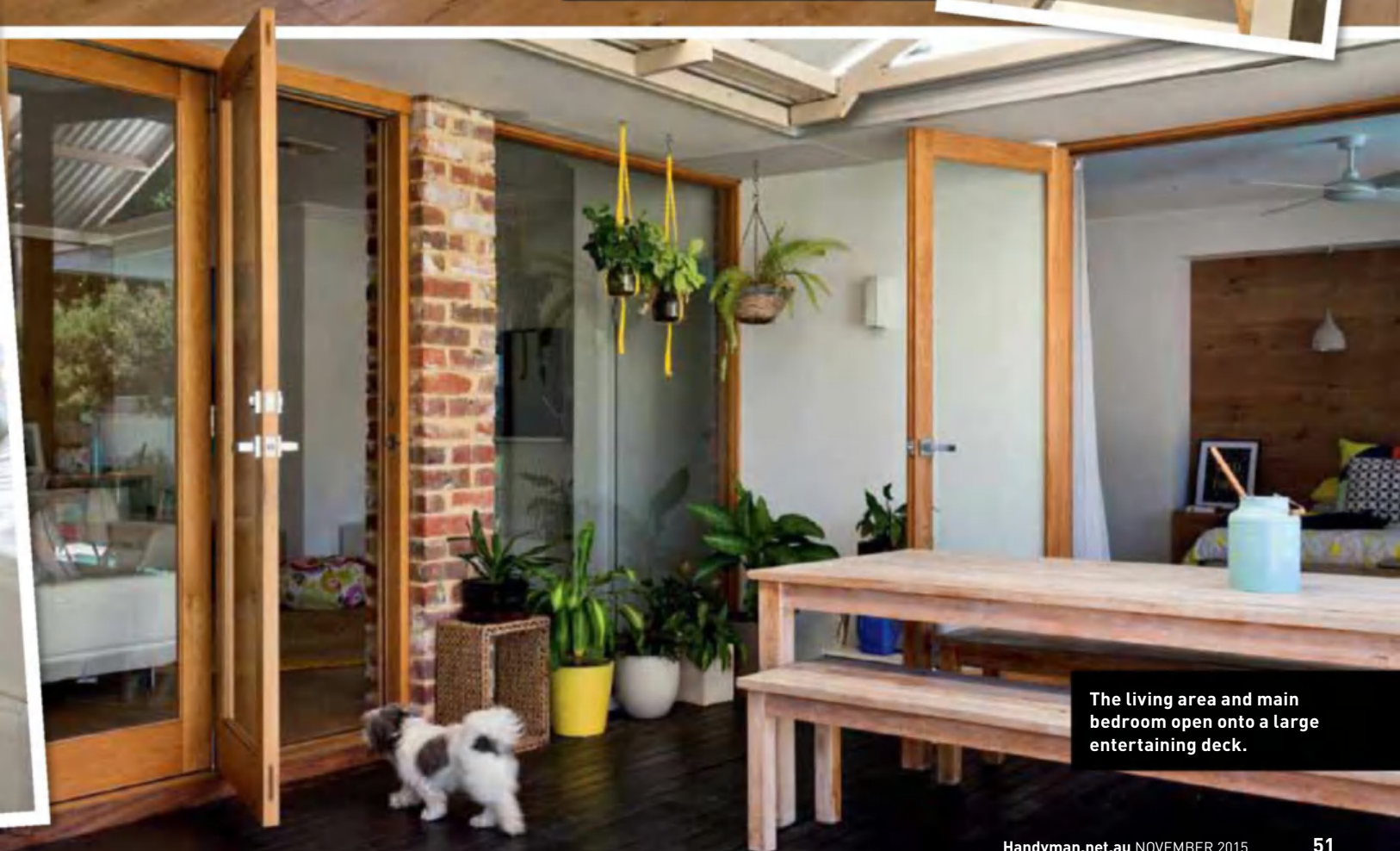
A butler's pantry keeps all the big equipment and preparation mess out of the now open-plan kitchen, dining and living space.

The old brick is exposed around the French doors that lead to a covered deck area. It also forms part of the kitchen island bench, which brings the heart of the home back to the original, and adds warmth. ➤



When it came to designing the interior, Emma wanted it to reflect their relaxed but active lifestyle. **RIGHT** The original brick pillar that protrudes into the living area was retained and has become a favourite feature in the home.





Expanded plans

The reno was a much bigger job than anticipated, as almost every aspect of the internal layout had to change.

Inside, there was a series of small enclosed rooms, with the largest living area facing the road and not connected to the outdoors. While the block is an ample 938sqm, there was no sense of space or environment at all.

‘One of the most important factors for me was to have everything facing

the back garden so the children could be seen while outside,’ says Emma.

The footprint of the house remained largely the same, with just an extra 64sqm added to create a studio at the back of the site and provide an additional 40sqm of living space, with two extra bedrooms and a bathroom.

In the main living area, Emma has achieved a balance between statement pieces, like the orange leather sofa, and a graphic black and white wallpaper.



The geometric wallpaper serves to pare back the dynamic impact of the sofa.



To make way for a generous-sized family bathroom and large laundry, the floorplan was restructured.



Fabulous find

Emma loves to include interesting items in her home, but advises that they don't always have to cost a lot.

'The pegboard in the laundry is usually reserved for sheds,' she says.

'It was bought at Bunnings and is one of the least expensive features in the house and a favourite of mine for its practicality and look.' ➤

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Adults' domain

The main bedroom was extended in size to incorporate a large ensuite and a walk-in wardrobe. And, rather than being just a perfunctory place to sleep, it is a private haven to enjoy.

A timber feature wall complements the exposed brick and brings organic warmth and luxury into the room.

A Scandinavian aesthetic combines the natural materials with graphic prints and a bright colour scheme. ➤



The new design made space for a large, luxurious ensuite for the master bedroom.

The main bedroom flows seamlessly into the garden.
RIGHT Emma and Martyn loved the idea of having a pool, which was easily accommodated in the big backyard.



Featuring lots of timber, the main bedroom is a warm and inviting space

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YouTube





The front verandah was turned into a shared play area for the two kids.

Children's quarters

The old street-facing verandah has been turned into a playroom.

'Adding a bedroom and enclosing the front verandah to create a shared space is one of the most successful features of the home,' says Emma.

'It's a retreat for the children, as well as connecting their bedrooms and encouraging inter-sibling play.'

Attention has been paid to surface treatments and storage, with chalkboard paint used on built-ins.

Fun and expressive wallpaper is used in one bedroom while the other is painted in pastel block stripes, both of which make for great impact.

'I don't have rules or a particular style, but I do think your home should be an expression of who you are as individuals and as a family,' she says.

'I pick pieces and colours I like and don't worry whether it all goes together perfectly. There are still things I'd like to change or develop but, overall, this is exactly the home I wanted.'

The design of a home has to reflect the needs of the family that lives in it



The new playroom is connected to the kids' bedrooms with curtains, and offers them their own private retreat.



LEFT Feature wallpaper is a great way to add texture and colour to a room.
BELOW Clever attention to the treatment of surfaces turns a built-in into a fun chalkboard.



STEAL THIS STYLE

I like pushing the envelope with design, but it also has to be practical, and you shouldn't sacrifice comfort and warmth to achieve that.

Emma Potter,
Breadbox Interiors

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DESIGN TIP

Keep the colour scheme neutral but create a complementary feature wall to add wow factor to a space.

After

Refreshed surfaces and new flooring bring this dated flat into the 21st century.



Before

FROM DRAB TO FAB

To boost rental income, a basic granny flat gets a modern makeover with easy cosmetic changes

WORDS AND PICTURES CHERIE BARBER



Granny flats are enjoying unprecedented popularity at the moment, no doubt due to soaring property and rental prices in many areas.

You can buy well-designed new granny flats in a whole range of configurations, including multiple bedrooms and decks, for under \$100,000, while many suburban properties already have one on the lot.

This one looks like it's seen better days and is definitely in need of a contemporary makeover, but we'll keep the budget to a minimum, as this is low-cost housing.

The reno plan

Study the room and you can readily see the telltale details that date it.

With net curtains, old vinyl flooring, varnished doors, shabby carpets, bare timber kitchen and old-fashioned fan, it's a time capsule of 1980s decor.

I'd estimate it would cost from \$1000 to \$1500 for this makeover, depending on how handy a DIYer you are, which isn't at all bad for a total transformation. ➤

FREE VIRTUAL MAKEOVER

Cherie Barber is the owner of Renovating For Profit, a company dedicated to teaching people how to add value to their property through smart renovation.

She is also a public speaker and TV renovator on the popular Network Ten show *The Living Room*.

Cherie is offering a free virtual makeover to *Handyman* readers in need of renovation inspiration.

Send us a photo and description of an area in your home that needs work for the chance to get a free makeover.

To upload your photos, go to handyman.net.au/virtual-makeover.

SIX STEPS TO SUCCESS

1 REVAMP THE CABINETS

A few masterstrokes will catapult the kitchen into the present decade.

Laminate paint tinted with Dulux Dieskau and new handles update the existing cabinets.

A second-hand fridge and additional cabinetry make the kitchen much more functional.



White Knight White Laminate Paint, \$49 for 1L. whiteknightpaints.com.au

4 ADD A FEATURE WALL

Now for a little wow factor. Wallpaper is a great way to spruce up a neutral interior and add a subtle bit of personality without overpowering a room.

Restrict it to just one or two feature walls.



Superfresco Easy 52cm x 10m Grey Verdant Wallpaper, \$50. grahambrown.com

2 LAY NEW FLOORING

Today, with fresh modern designs and finishes, there are many more vinyl options available than when this flat was built.

I'll use Gerflor stick-on flooring, which mimics the look of weathered floorboards but is super durable and waterproof.



Gerflor Lifestyle 3m Wide Newport Pecan Vinyl Sheet, \$54 per metre. gerflor.com.au

5 PAINT THE ROOM

Finally, the magic wand that makes everything look fabulous, paint.

I've chosen Dulux in Dieskau for the walls to tie in with the cabinets.

A high-gloss white for all the brown woodwork completes the picture.



Dulux Wash & Wear 101 Barrier Technology Plus Super Hide Low Sheen, \$90 for 4L. dulux.com.au

3 INSTALL NEW LIGHTING

Replacing the lighting is always on the standard tick list of updates for an older property.

Here, we need track lighting for the kitchen and halogen downlights for the living area.



Arlec 240V 4X Brushed Stainless Steel Charlton Spotlight, \$90. arlec.com.au

6 ADD THE FITTINGS

To complete the reno, the window is dressed with a smart micro-venetian blind and the old ceiling fan is replaced with a stainless steel model.

And, with modern furniture in place, the flat is now transformed. ●



Zenta 120cm Northera Three-blade Ceiling Fan with Light, \$154. arlec.com.au

The Wagner logo, featuring a stylized black triangle above the word "WAGNER" in bold, black, sans-serif capital letters.

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LAY MOSAIC TILES

Create a feature wall in a new bathroom with decorative tiling you can DIY

DIY TIP

Use a spirit level to check the bathtub ledge is level before you start, so you can make adjustments as you lay the tile sheets.

Give the bathtub a sleek mosaic tile backdrop.

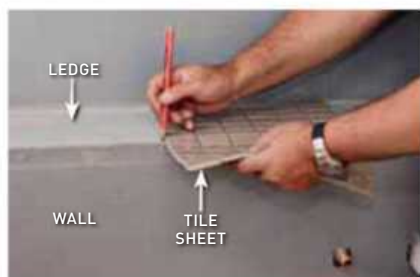
Mosaics are a decorative style of tiling that can be used on walls or floors. In this new bathroom, tile sheets were used on the wall and ledge beside the tub.

The sheets come in a range of colours, designs and textures, and using them instead of individual tiles to create a mosaic is a fast and easy DIY job. Here's how to lay them for a professional finish.

What you need

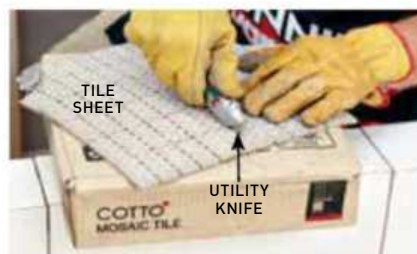
- Mosaic tile sheets
- Safety gear
- Tile spacers
- Notch trowel
- Rubber pointed trowel
- Tile nippers
- Angle grinder
- Mixing paddle
- Tile adhesive
- Spirit level
- Utility knife
- Grout

TILE THE WALL



1 Mark and measure

Measure the length of the ledge where the tiles will be laid, then mark the centrepont. Position a tile sheet at the centrepont and move it along the ledge, marking as you go, to calculate how many sheets you'll need.



2 Cut the sheets

Lay a sheet of mosaic tiles on the ledge and mark the width. Wearing safety gloves and glasses, mark all of the tile sheets to width, then lay face down on a firm surface and cut to width using a utility knife.



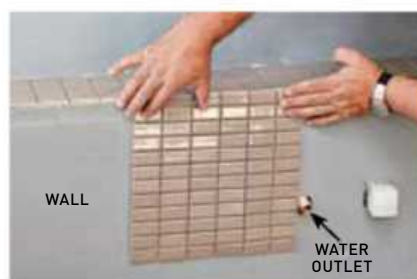
3 Apply the adhesive

Add the tile adhesive powder to water in a bucket and use a mixing paddle to stir, adding more powder until you achieve a toothpaste-like consistency. Apply the tile adhesive to the ledge with a notch trowel.



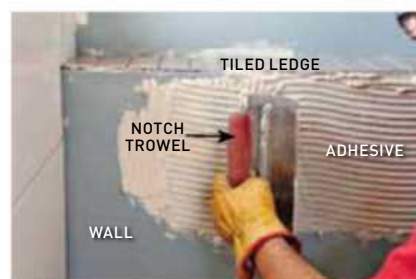
4 Tile the ledge

Position the tile sheets on the ledge, starting from the centrepont. Use spacers in between the sheets to keep the gaps even. Press down the tiles using a rubber pointed trowel. Check for level before the adhesive dries.



5 Line up the sheets

Position a sheet on the wall to check they will line up with the sheets on the ledge. Mark any obstructions, like a water outlet, where it appears on the sheet. Pull the tile away from the sheet and cut with tile nippers.



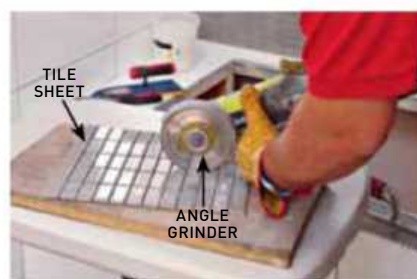
6 Prepare the wall

Use the spirit level to draw a plumb line down the wall from the ledge centrepont and use it to calculate the number of tile sheets needed. Apply adhesive to the wall from the centrepont using the notch trowel.



7 Tile the wall

Working from the centreline, position sheets on the adhesive, pressing any tiles that were removed and cut for small obstructions, like a water outlet, back in position. Apply more adhesive and tile the rest of that half of the wall.



8 Cut pipe holes

For large obstructions in the wall like a mixer tap outlet, cut a hole in a sheet. Measure up to accurately transfer the position to the tile sheet, cutting the hole using an angle grinder while wearing appropriate safety gear.



9 Finish the tiling

Lay sheets on the other half of the wall, working from the centreline. Use the rubber trowel to press the tiles down. Let the adhesive dry, then apply grout to the tiles using a grout float, cleaning the haze with water.

SURFACE MAKEOVERS

Overhaul the exterior of your home with five easy fixes for walls, fences, pavers and decks

Render a brick wall




Giving the outdoor features of your home a revamp can be done simply and inexpensively, and without having to call in tradies.

An outdoor reno will boost the value of your property and provide instant kerb appeal, and also prolong the life of the features you update.


Repainting a fence, sanding and staining a deck, sealing pavers and rendering a brick wall will give the exterior a fast and effective refresh.

Here's how to do these jobs DIY and get professional results. ➤

 Renovate outdoor living and entertaining areas DIY and get ready for summer

SAFETY TIP


Inspect your outdoor structures annually to check for early signs of corrosion and excessive weathering.



Sand and stain a deck



Spray-paint a fence



Seal pavers



Discover more outdoor projects
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RENDER A WALL

Applying render is something you can comfortably do DIY, but it does take some practice for a quality finish.

When rendering surfaces with corners and window ledges, you will need to install angle bead. Measure the height and length of the wall and windows, then cut the bead to fit using snips.

After installing the bead, let the adhesive dry for a day before applying the render.



Wiss Straight Cut Aviation Snips,
\$22. apextoolgroup.com.au

Freshen up an old brick wall by giving it a new finish.

What you need

Trowel, float and hawk
Cement render
Mixing bucket
Snips
Sponge
Water brush
Mixing drill
Angle bead
Straightedge
Adhesive
Tape measure
Painter's tape
Safety gear



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APPLY THE RENDER



1 Mix the adhesive

Pour water into a mixing bucket. Add the adhesive to the bucket and mix it with a trowel. If it's too runny add more adhesive. If it's too dry, add more water. Flip the hawk onto the trowel to pick up the adhesive.



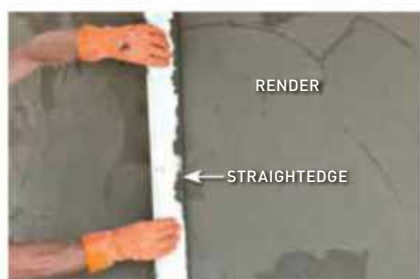
2 Apply the adhesive

Use the trowel to apply a 2mm thick by 25mm wide layer of adhesive around wall corners and windows. Push angle bead into the adhesive, levelling with a straightedge. Allow to dry for five minutes then smooth off.



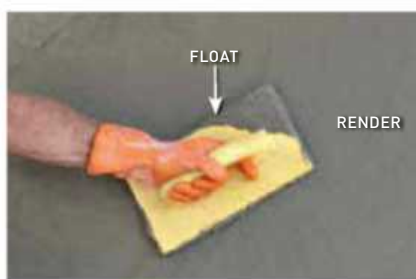
3 Render the wall

Combine the render with water, using a mixing drill. Apply a coat of smooth render, 4-6mm thick. Tilt the hawk onto the trowel, then apply the render at a 45° angle. For coarse bricks, add water to the surface before you start.



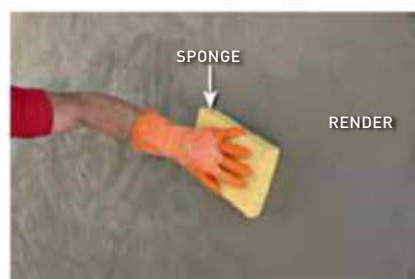
4 Screed the surface

Let the render dry for 30 minutes until firm then use a straightedge to screed the surface. Check for any hollows, which will have a lighter colour, fill in with more render, then screed again for a smooth, flat surface.



5 Smooth the wall

Sprinkle the wall lightly with water using a water brush, then smooth with a float. Work the float in a circular motion, filling in any small hollows. This closes the surface to make it more durable, preventing damage later on.



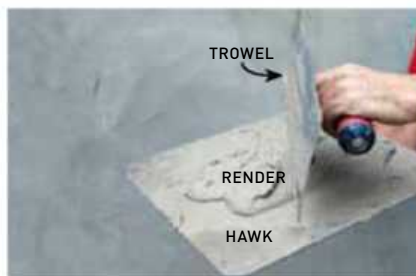
6 Sponge the render

As the render firms and dries, rub the surface in a circular motion with a damp sponge. Rinse out the sponge as you go to avoid a scratchy finish. Clean up around any vents, sponging off marks for a flawless finish.



7 Cover the borders

Mask the borders of the rendered surface with painter's tape to prepare for the top coat, protecting the surrounding areas. Ensure fences, flashing, or any other roof edges are masked to avoid render spilling over.



8 Apply the top coat

Add render to the hawk and use the trowel to apply a tight coat of render with a firm arcing action, working from top to base. Clean the tools soon after use, as the render will dry onto them quickly.



9 Float the wall

Smooth the render in small circular motions with the float, keeping a wet edge for a seamless finish. Allow the render to dry and harden for about 2-3 hours. Remove the painter's tape from around the borders. ➤



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SEAL THE PAVERS

Adding a protective coat of sealant to garden pavers is a simple job that will bring out their natural colour and grain, and can save you hours of cleaning and painting later on.

A sealant helps pavers withstand high traffic and bad weather, to keep them looking good for longer.

It is best to do this job before you lay the pavers, but if they are already laid, make sure they are dry.

What you need

Sawhorse
Paint roller
Paint tray
Paintbrush
Paving sealant
Rags
Safety gear

1 2 3



1 Paint the edges

Sit the pavers on a sawhorse. Wearing gloves, apply an even coat of sealant to the edges, then lay flat and seal the top surface using a roller.

TIP Wear a mask if you are working in a poorly ventilated area.



2 Paint the back

Wait 24 hours for the sealant on the edges and top to dry, then flip over the pavers and apply sealant on the back, using a paint roller.

TIP Apply only a thin coat of sealant and leave it to dry for up to 24 hours.



3 Apply additional coats

When the sealant is fully dry, give the pavers another coat, applying it to the edges, top and back as before. For the final coat, lay the pavers right-side up and apply the sealant to the top and edges only. ➤

PAINT THE FENCE

Spraying a timber fence with paint or stain will protect it from rotting and weathering, and will instantly change the look of your front or back garden.

You'll need to prepare well for the job by using painter's tape and drop sheets to keep from spraying the surrounding areas.

What you need

High-pressure cleaner
Spray gun
Paint scraper
Hand sander
Sandpaper
Paint
Paintbrush
Painter's tape
Mixing bucket
Drop sheet
Safety glasses
Dust mask

Using a spray gun is a fast and efficient way to paint a fence.

1 2 3



1 Clean the surface

Wash the fence with a high-pressure water cleaner to remove any flaking paint and grime. Allow to dry, then scrape and sand the palings to remove any remaining paint. Clean the edges with a sheet of sandpaper.



2 Mix the paint

Use a bucket to mix the paint with a little water to dilute it, then pour into a spray gun. Lay a drop sheet. **TIP** Use about 50ml of water per litre to dilute thinner paints and 100ml per litre for thicker paints.



3 Spray the fence

Spray the fence from top to base, holding the gun slightly off to the side. Even out any thicker sections or drips with a brush, especially around the screw or nail heads. Let the paint dry, then apply a second coat. ➤

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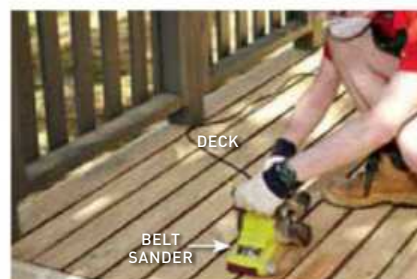
A good sand will give your deck a new lease of life.

1 2 3



1 Prepare the surface

Check the deck surface for nails and screws. Countersink any nails that are sticking out with a hammer and a nail punch to a couple of millimetres below the level of the deck. Screw down any protruding screws.



2 Sand the boards

Sand along the grain of the boards with a belt sander, working backwards and forwards. Use 40 grit paper for the first sand, then sand the deck a second time with 120 grit paper, to achieve a smooth finish.



3 Touch up the edges

Sand the remaining areas of the boards using a detail sander, working into the edges and corners where the belt sander can't reach. Sweep the deck thoroughly with a broom to remove any dust after sanding. ➤

SAND THE DECK

Resurfacing the deck is a job to do before summer sets in, so the boards can cope with the extra traffic.

Sanding it back before applying a new finish is essential to get rid of any old paint or stain on the boards.

Make sure there is nothing sticking up above the surface before sanding, as it will tear the sanding belts. ➤

What you need

Belt sander
Detail sander
Hammer
Nail punch
Sandpaper
Broom
Safety gear



Extend the life of your deck by refinishing it.

STAIN THE DECK

Giving your deck a new coat of stain will preserve the timber and keep it looking beautifully fresh.

Use a darker or lighter shade than normal on the boards if you want to transform the look of your backyard.

Remember to stir the stain before applying it to ensure you get an even coverage and a consistent finish.

What you need

Paint tray
Paintbrush
Stain
Painter's tape
Cloth
Lambswool applicator
Paint stirrer

1 2 3



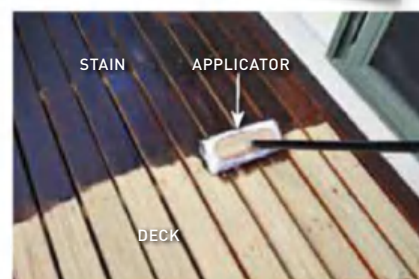
1 Mask the borders

Use painter's tape to mask any areas you don't want stained, such as walls and cladding that border the deck. Stir the stain thoroughly using a paint stirrer to ensure the pigment is evenly mixed throughout the tin.



2 Cut in the edges

Use a paintbrush to cut in the edges and the corners, applying the stain in long, even brush strokes and blending in as you go. Remove the painter's tape before the stain dries to ensure that it doesn't spoil the finish.



3 Stain the deck

Apply stain to the deck boards using a lambswool applicator, being careful not to apply too much. Use long, even strokes, blending in as you go. Finish on an open edge to avoid painting yourself into a corner. ●

- ② Use **Monarch Mini Gap Filler** (\$1.97) to fill any gaps before painting on surfaces such as door frames and windows. To get a smooth finish wipe off the excess gap filler using the **Monarch 3 in 1 Caulking Tool** (\$4.60).



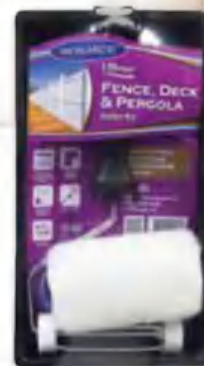
MONARCH®

Professional **PAINTING** Tips

- ③ The **Monarch Detail brush** (\$15.94) is 25mm in size which makes it ideal for painting small intricate surfaces like balustrading or railings.



- ④ For veranda posts, pergolas, and even decking, the **Monarch Fence, Deck & Pergola Kit** (\$9.59) will make the job easy. This 130mm kit is designed to hold plenty of paint which makes it perfect for most exterior projects.



- ⑤ The **Monarch Doors, Trims & Cupboards roller** (\$10.98) has a 5mm Nap, so it is designed to apply a smooth, thin layer of paint to your doors & trims. It also comes in a variety of widths suitable for flat and panel doors.



*Painters tip-wash the roller before using for about 2 minutes under running water to remove any loose fluff. Then shake out the excess water, and you're ready to paint.

- ① Use **Monarch Weatherboard, Eaves & Fascia brush** (\$26.98) to achieve a smooth, professional finish on weatherboards with no brush marks.



*Painters tip-Soak your brush for 10 minutes in the recommended solvent before using to soften the filament which helps pick up and release paint better.

- ✓ The key to getting a **professional finish** is using quality paint with **quality brushes and rollers.**

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HOME PLAYGROUND

Create an exciting space in the backyard to get the kids outside and keep them active during summer

When the weather gets warm and the holidays start, one of the joys of being a kid is having a swing or playset in the garden to provide a constant source of fun.

Before buying, consider the size of the yard and the age of your children to make the most suitable choice.

Here are a range of options that will keep the kids happy all summer. ➤



Provide lots of fun for the kids with the Swing Slide Ride Six Function Swing Set, \$169.



Let the little ones play all day long on the Swing Slide Ride Shangri La Multiplay Timber Playhouse, \$1449.

Give your child endless hours of entertainment with a Swing Slide Ride Manor Playset, \$699.





Inspire their *sense of adventure* with the **Swing Slide Ride Camelot Multiplay Playground**, \$1599.



Wow kids with **Swing Slide Climb Rainbow Sand**, \$17.90 for 10kg, to brighten up the sandpit.



Set imaginations free with the **Fountain Products Clam Shell Sandpit**, \$13.20.



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Some of the other benefits you will experience are: A heated seat, soft close lid, and on some models you

will get a warm water wash and a warm air dry.

The Princess model will also automatically open and close the lid. The Throne toilet is very simple to install and is available in P and S trap.

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STYLE SECRETS

Be inspired to create a home you love
with these decorating and design tips

WORDS JULIET LOVE



As with dressing yourself, dressing a room comes down to the finer details.

The excellence exists in the combination of each component. As they say, 'the details are not the details, they are the design'.

Bring your rooms to life with carefully selected accessories and trims. The smallest objects can often make the biggest impression.

But remember, the best rooms are not those that are full of 'things'. Edit well, and refine the space by making every object count.

And incorporate each factor into the design through complementary textures, tones and styles.

Not everything has to match

Some of the most stylish rooms in the world aren't perfectly coordinated. In fact, often it's the opposite.

An eclectic mix is much more exciting visually, so be adventurous and try a few items that you wouldn't naturally assume go together.

Create a 'story' by placing items together that might be different styles, but have something that is similar – a touch of gold paint, or a shade of fuchsia in the detail of separate items is enough to tie pieces together. ➤

Create opulence with plump cushions and full curtains

Designer cushions always look plump. To achieve this look, use an insert that is a couple of inches larger than the size of your cushion cover for cushions that will never look flat and cheap.

Similarly, curtains that are two or two and a half times wider than the window or opening will look much fuller than curtains that just reach the distance between each end of the rod.

A decorative pelmet will also make your decor seem more considered.

Think big. A few carefully selected large-scale items make a room seem more substantial. Lots of little items tend to look cluttered and get lost among the mess



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Wallpaper in unexpected places

Wallpaper looks brilliant in small spaces – in an entry foyer, hallway, at the back of open bookshelves or cupboards, and even on the ceiling.

Don't just stick to traditional patterned wallpaper either, modern textured wallpaper can look fabulous too.

If you can't afford to wallpaper an entire room, use wallpaper on a panel of the wall, or use a covered canvas as an artwork.

Lining the back of open shelving with wallpaper, and even the exterior of closet doors, will inject some unexpected visual excitement into a room. ➤

PICTURE FOTOLIA

Using accessories, art and mirrored walls

Nothing is worse than a home that is void of personality. Accessories help to give your home character, and a finished, designer look.

Work in odd numbers for the most pleasing effect on the eye.

Items such as rugs, artwork, trays and candles will all make a designer statement. Play with texture in fabrics such as leather and velvet.

Collections en masse are always a stylish statement. Display collections of cherished finds from travels or other endeavours but remember, as always, to be ruthless when 'editing' accessories.

Grouping similar objects of the things that you love into collections is an effective way of styling – just be sure they are artfully arranged.



When you're talking decor and accessories, big is generally better. It just says luxury

Art is the finishing touch that gives a room its definition.

Think outside the square – a mixture of vintage plates, oversized exotic doors from locations such as Morocco or Indonesia, or children's artworks from daycare or school are interesting options.

Mirrored walls are one of the ultimate features in elegant interiors. They hark back to a day when homes were a showpiece.

Just cover one wall in a main room of your home to avoid it feeling like you're at an amusement park, and consider an interesting finish such as an aged mirror to give your room some depth and avoid it being too showy and dominant. ➤



PICTURE BROOKE EVBARD

Fashionable architectural details and features

Features such as decorative mouldings – crown mouldings, bevelled panels, grooved posts and fluted slat details – will all give your home a stately and sophisticated look.

Classic details can be given a modern look by pairing them with an appropriate paint scheme and contemporary accessories.

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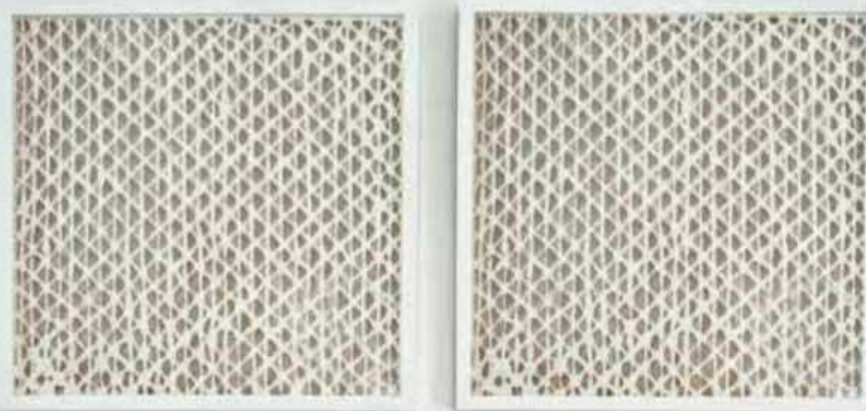
Cladding, panelling and pressed tin

Adding textured panels to your walls can give your home an added dimension that takes it out of the ordinary.

Whitewashed timber cladding looks gorgeous in beach houses, and old-fashioned pressed tin, which is both affordable and easy to install, has had a resurgence.

How you display your art is almost as important as the actual art itself. It can be hung like a gallery collection, leant up against the wall atop a table or, if large enough, against a wall on the floor.

The framing is as significant as the subject matter, so invest in good-quality framing that will last and also enhance the artworks beautifully.



STEAL THIS STYLE

Your interior should be layered with personality and tell your story. This is the secret of how the best designers produce the finest interiors.

Juliet Love, stylist, interior designer and TV host

Become a DIY designer

This is an edited extract from interior designer and stylist Juliet Love's beautiful new book *Love Style* (\$40, New Holland), where she shares her insight into how to redecorate your personal spaces (lovestyle.com.au).

She offers inspiration and practical advice on how to get the designer look on a budget, use visual tricks to create the illusion of space, and also match textures and patterns confidently.





The finishing touches

These are classic statement accessories such as white linens and towels, candles, fresh flowers and silver trays. They are smart and stylish.

You can't beat fresh white bed linen on beds, and white towels in the bathroom. Far from impractical, they are easy to bleach when necessary and always look crisp.

Building layers in your decor through details such as piping, flanges, valances, pelmets, skirts and monograms will also give you a successful designer look.

Think about monogramming plain white bathroom hand towels with your initials to give your home an air of grace and elegance. 💎

TIMELESS POTS

Paint terracotta planters with a lime wash to give them a rustic look

PROJECT AND PICTURES MELISSA DARR

To enjoy planters with that on-trend weathered look about them, you don't need to spend money on antiques or wait decades for your own pots to age.

Here, DIY blogger Melissa Darr has given her terracotta pots a rustic finish for only a few dollars each.

You can keep the natural colour of the lime wash or tint the second

coat with a water-based paint to create a two-tone effect when it is sanded back. Melissa used both techniques on her pots.

'This is such an easy project and the end result is a one-of-a-kind pot that's full of character,' says Melissa.

'Anything rustic looking gets me every time and these pots take pride of place in my home,' she says.

MELISSA'S PICKS



Australian Builders Home
Handypac Hydrated Lime,
\$6 for 1kg. bpsaust.com



Northcote Pottery 21cm
Italian Terracotta Squat Pot,
\$8. northcotepottery.com.au

GREEN
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Dulux Sample Pot in
Green Frost, from \$9
for 250ml. dulux.com.au

Melissa



EXPERT SECRETS

If you can't get hold of builder's lime, garden lime will work, although it may not be white.



1 Mix the lime wash

Using a metal spoon, mix one part lime powder to one part water in a small bowl by hand until it forms a smooth paste that is the consistency of pancake batter. Lay newspaper on a flat surface.



2 Apply the paste

Use a paintbrush to apply the paste to the pot and saucer, adding water if it is too thick. Allow to dry for 20 minutes. Add about half a cup of coloured paint to the remaining paste, then apply as a top coat. Allow to dry for 2-3 hours.



3 Sand the pot

Sand random areas of the pot with 120 grit sandpaper, either sanding right back to the terracotta or just so the lime wash base coat is visible. Wipe the pot with a damp cloth to remove any dust, then plant up.

DESIGN TIP

Plant up your pots with easy-to-maintain succulents or use small-leaved plants like *Ficus pumila* 'Frosty'.



 Get more DIY from Melissa
Follow her blog thewhimsicalwife.com

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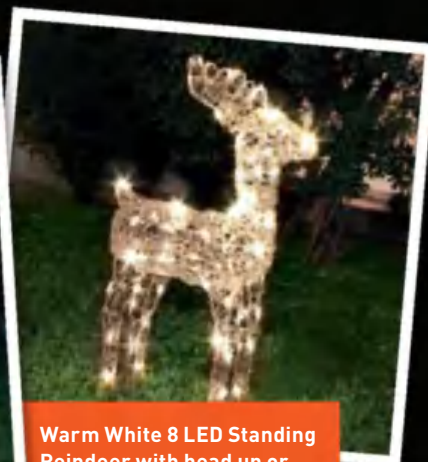
FESTIVE LIGHTING

Give your place a bright and welcoming holiday glow with outdoor lights and Christmas decorations

Dress up the front of your house with festive lights and outdoor decorations you can set up DIY to bring the spirit of the season to your home these holidays.

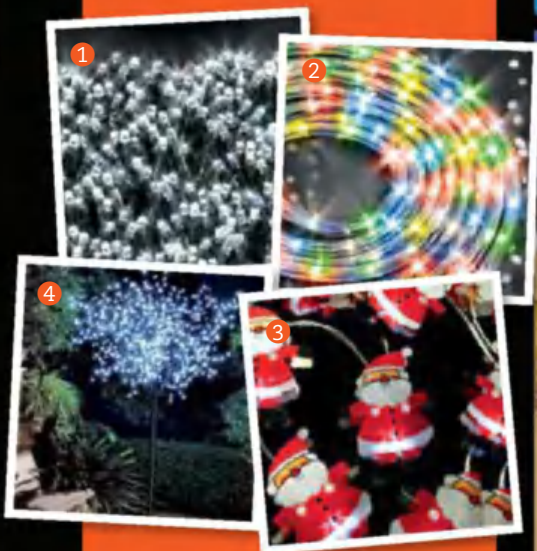
Give the front yard a themed light show and Christmas scenes using LED reindeer and tree lights, inflatable Santas and more.

In the backyard, you can give the deck, patio or pool area a festive makeover with fairy lights to create a night-time wonderland. ➤



Warm White 8 LED Standing Reindeer with head up or head down, \$49.90 each.

LIGHTS



- ① Solar Fairy Lights 375 LED 8 function in White, \$35.
- ② Connectable 10m LED 8 function Rope Light in Multicolour, \$10.
- ③ Battery-operated 20 LED PVC Santa Lights, \$7.90.
- ④ Deluxe 2.5m 600 LED Blossom Tree in Blue, \$129.



Add festive flair to an outdoor entertaining area with icicle lights hung from eaves.

SANTAS



- ① Inflatable 180cm Santa with Harley Bike, \$99.
- ② Inflatable 180cm Santa On Sleigh with two reindeer, \$89.
- ③ Inflatable 180cm Santa with Bag, \$79.
- ④ Inflatable 180cm Santa with Tractor, \$129.

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DIY TIP

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LAWN ESSENTIALS



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Trim back turf using a Masport 490 4 in 1 Lawn Mower, \$579, with a two-year engine warranty.

OUTDOOR DECORATIONS

Add ambience with Lytworx Connectable Party Lights Warm White LEDs, \$29.98.

Light the way with dual-function Larzac Solar Bollards, \$29.90 for six.

Bring blooms to the yard with Lytworx Warm White LED Solar Blossom Stake Lights, \$49.90.

Brighten the night with Gibson Stainless Steel Colour Changing Solar Lights, \$20 for 10.

Increase home security with the Lytworx Solar Motion Activated Security Light, \$99.

Inject colour into a courtyard with a Water Magic Red Amphora Rib Water Feature, \$439.

Take time out to enjoy the soothing sounds of a Sango Fountain, \$49.98.

Cool down this summer next to a Roman Fountain, \$54.98, with a 3m cable and pump.

Give the garden rustic chic with an easy-to-install Oakden Barrel Fountain, \$119.

Get the look of a natural rock waterfall with a Tolmer Fountain, \$249, with 10m power cord.

Make a statement in the garden with a solar-powered Henry Fountain, \$199.

Go for old-world charm with a solar-powered Amelia Fountain, \$199.

Decorate an exterior wall with a solar-powered Como Fountain, \$229.

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This month

Do the work to create a lush landscape before the heat of summer sets in



Do now

- **MAKE** free plant food with a compost heap, page 129.
- **CHOOSE** disease-free plants for a healthy yard, page 134.
- **GROW** juicy tomatoes for organic flavour, page 141.

Flowers to sow

Get these in the ground now for mid- to late-summer colour.

- **AFRICAN MARIGOLD**
- **CALIFORNIAN POPPY**
- **GLOBE AMARANTH**
- **IMPATIENS**
- **SALPIGLOSSIS**



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Vegies to grow

Sow a mix of edibles for crops from midsummer to autumn.

- **CABBAGE**
- **CAPSICUM**
- **CARROT**
- **EGGPLANT**
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Cabbage



WHAT'S IN COLOUR



Osteospermum 'Blue Eyed Beauty'

• *OSTEOSPERMUM* 'BLUE EYED BEAUTY'

(*Osteospermum ecklonis*) features butter-yellow blooms with a vivid centre, putting a modern twist on a classic daisy.

Growing to about 35cm high and spreading up to 50cm, it has a bushy, compact form, making it ideal for pots, hanging baskets and beds.

Give this hardy plant a position in full sun to part shade in well-drained soil. Drought-tolerant once established and low maintenance, 'Blue Eyed Beauty' blooms almost year-round.

• *CLEMATIS* 'PIILU' (pronounced pee-loo) flowers prolifically from spring well into autumn. It bears early double blooms while the later ones are single, and unlike other varieties, the flowers cover the entire plant.

This vigorous climber reaches 2m high and spreads to 1m, so grow over a fence or screen and tie it to support new growth.

Give 'Piilu' a position in full sun in fertile, well-drained soil and water regularly during long dry periods. Cut it back once a year and deadhead.



Clematis 'Piilu'

To-do list

Get the garden in shape to deal with the heat ahead.

- ✓ **WATER** newly planted flowering perennials.
- ✓ **LIFT** spring bulbs if beds are needed for summer blooms.
- ✓ **MULCH** beds to help stop the soil drying out.
- ✓ **SOW** heat-resistant flowers such as salvias, marigolds, sunflowers and zinnias.

- ✓ **ALLOW** grass to grow longer and water the lawn deeply once a week.
- ✓ **DEADHEAD** roses and feed lightly after spring flowering has finished.
- ✓ **COVER** fruit trees with bird-safe netting to stop them eating the harvest.
- ✓ **GIVE** indoor plants a good water and feed, then refresh outdoors in a shaded spot. ➤

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Summer planters

Give the garden rustic chic with vintage-style metal buckets.

Sturdy but easy to pick up and move about, use them to grow sun-loving annuals and herbs.

They also look great indoors, on a balcony or in a courtyard.



Soil wetters

When the hot and dry weather of high summer hits, it's too late to prepare the lawn and garden, making November the perfect time to apply a soil wetter to ensure water penetrates to the roots.

To stop soil becoming dry and water repellent, reapply it every 6-8 weeks during summer to keep plants hydrated and the grass green.

Don't forget pot plants and, for maximum water retention, make sure to apply a good quality mulch too. >

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Richgro Natural Pinebark Mulch, \$10 for 40L. richgro.com.au

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Hibiscus

Prune now

Cut back or deadhead plants after they have finished flowering.

- ORNAMENTAL FRUIT TREES
- ONCE-BLOOMING ROSES
- CLIMBERS
- HEDGES
- SHRUBS

Wisteria

Harvest now

Get in the last of these spring vegetable crops.

- BRUSSELS SPROUTS
- ARTICHOKE
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Artichoke



BOOK CLUB



Adriana

You don't have to be a gardener to enjoy the extraordinary adult colouring book *The Garden Of Earthly Delights* by Adriana Picker (\$20, Hardie Grant Books).

Featuring page after page of Adriana's exquisite and intricate illustrations of flora and insects, you'll be inspired to turn her black-and-white drawings into full-colour masterpieces.

Dame Alison Holst and son Simon have once again joined culinary forces in *The Ultimate Vegetarian Collection*, (\$45, New Holland).

They have compiled over 400 recipes, covering all meals, desserts, party food and more.

With this cookbook, you'll be able to turn any and every herb, vegetable or fruit you grow into a delicious meal, snack or treat.



Simon & Alison



If you want to eat from the garden this summer, you really can't go past *Summer On Fat Pig Farm* by gourmet farmer Matthew Evans (\$50, Murdoch Books).

Gardeners and foodies alike will love this simple but sensational seasonal cooking guide on how to use the freshest ingredients to make everything from zucchini salad to strawberry slushies.



Matthew

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STARTING FROM SCRATCH

After lots of trial and error, a lush vegie and herb garden emerged from a patch of scrubby lawn

WORDS SITA SIMONS

Faced with a bare patch of land, it was determination and a can-do attitude that saw Amelia van Zyl create an abundant vegetable garden, one that feeds her family of four and provides extra for her neighbours.

With no real gardening experience, Amelia read countless books and talked to friends and professionals.

'It was so awful to look at, it really motivated me to do something with it, and quickly,' says Amelia.

'I look back now and see my lack of experience as a blessing, as I wasn't fearful of messing anything up. This is the garden that trial, error and a big dose of good luck built.' ➤




LEFT Raised levels and beds provide a vegie garden with structure.
RIGHT Team tomatoes and basil for a classic culinary combination.



TIDY TIP

To make sure pipes are concealed from view, plan your irrigation before you build any walls or start planting.

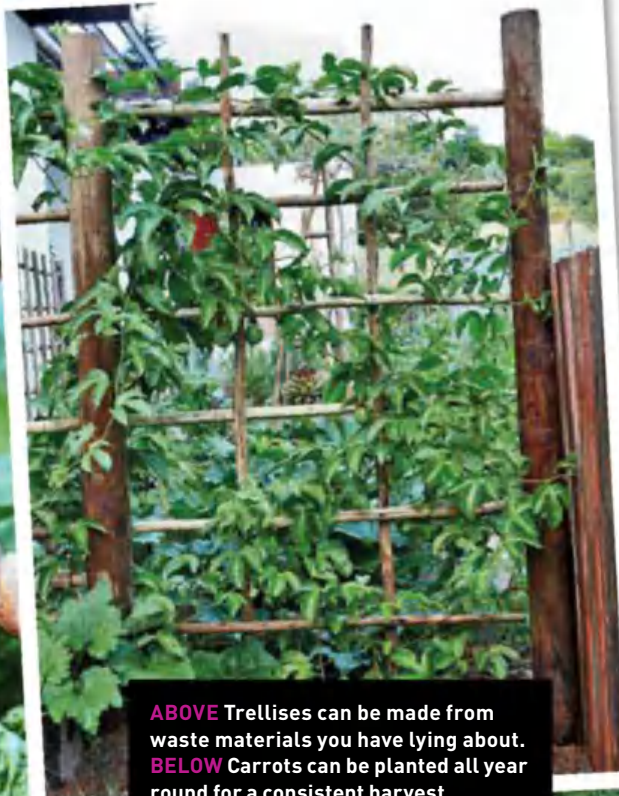


Silverbeet can be sown all year in most areas and is easy to grow.



DIY TIP

For an even distribution of seeds, dip a wet piece of string into the seed packet, then plant, string and all.



ABOVE Trellises can be made from waste materials you have lying about.
BELOW Carrots can be planted all year round for a consistent harvest.



The golden rules for vegies are at least five hours of direct sunlight a day, plus nutrient-rich, free-draining soil

It's hard to beat picking a basket of vegies and herbs from your own garden.

Time to harvest

Variety was the cornerstone of Amelia's plan for her vegetable garden, and all the available space has been used for raised beds, large planters and various trellis and arbour structures.

'I had a basic plan and it was drawn to scale on graph paper. But when it came to it, it didn't work well, so I had to change a few elements. I've found that being willing to adapt is a crucial factor in gardening,' she says.

'Spring is when most vegetables are ready to be harvested. Once ready to be picked, till the soil and add more nutrients, ready for the next crop. If a particular variety has flourished in that spot, plant it again,' says Amelia.

'And don't be afraid to cut back your herbs at the end of the season or if they're overcrowding other plants, as they will sprout much better.

'You can use the trimmings to flavour your meals or make a fragrant posy for indoors,' she says. ➤



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Sow it and see

The best vegetable gardens are busy and productive, and this doesn't require precision planning.

Landscape gardener Jarret Clynick advises a sow-it-and-see approach for the best long-term results.

'If you're starting from scratch, as Amelia was, first get your expectations in check. Don't imagine you will have a bountiful vegetable garden within the first few seasons,' says Jarret.

'Choose three or four things you really want and plant multiple packs of seeds. This allows you to see what will thrive and what won't.

'Build on your food garden layer by layer. If you stick with it, you will be rewarded with abundance,' he says. 🌱



Maximise your yields and variety of plants by building up with simple trellis structures

GROW TIP

Take into account the growing habits of the plants, as certain varieties such as mint will always take over.



Amelia uses her vegetables and herbs daily and shares the excess with friends.



Add dimension and interest by planting tall varieties with root vegies and climbers.

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A photograph of a moss ball (kokedama) with a flowering branch. The moss ball is a dense, rounded sphere of bright green moss, sitting on a dark wooden crate. A thin, woody branch grows out of the top of the moss ball, covered in numerous small, light pink and white flowers. The background is a blurred red brick wall and some green foliage. The title 'MAKING MOSS BALLS' is overlaid in large white letters.

MAKING MOSS BALLS

Take summer decorating to the next level by using a simple bonsai technique to create a designer display



Mix and match plants to create a structural display.

Simple to make but with a big visual impact, moss balls make wonderful living decorations.

This variant of bonsai is called kokedama and involves taking a small plant, embedding it in a mud and clay ball, then wrapping it in moss.

Traditionally, kokedama were displayed on surfaces, but Dutch designer Fedor Van der Valk began a trend for hanging moss balls, which he called string gardens. ➤



Kokedama become light when dry, so check if they need watering by feeling their weight



Hang moss balls in a tree to decorate for outdoor living.

STRING GARDEN

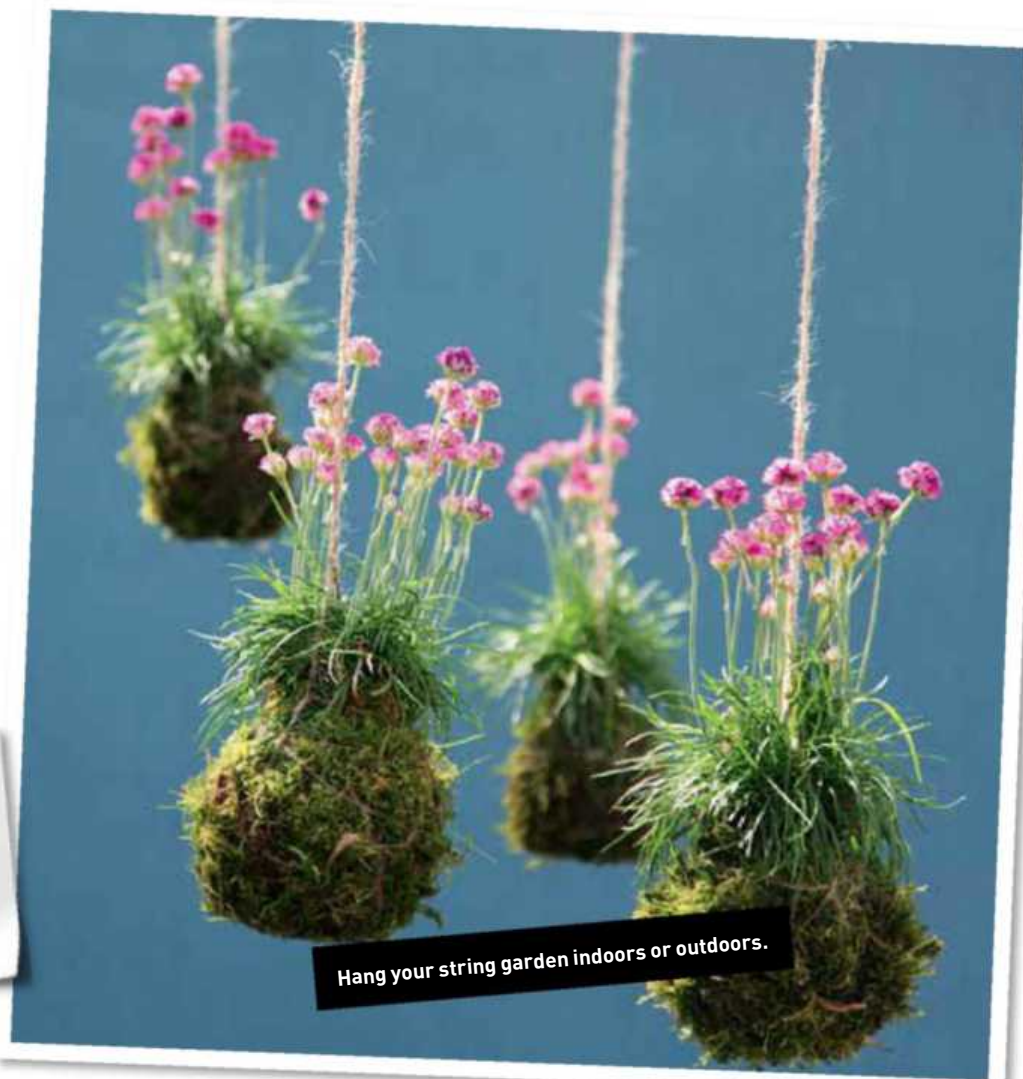
To create a string garden, attach moss balls to a natural fibre twine, such as cotton or jute. Simply hang them individually or in groups for an eyecatching display of greenery and flowers.

As with pot plants, they will shed foliage, so position them where this won't be a problem.

Moss balls can be soaked in water, otherwise they need regular misting with a spray bottle.

Materials

Sphagnum moss
Peat soil and clay
Potting mix
Twine



1 2 3



1 Make a mud ball

Tie a bunch of sphagnum moss around the roots of the plant, then leave it in water. Mix peat soil with clay, potting mix and a little water, then form it into a ball about the size and shape of a large orange.



2 Add the plant

Make a planting hole in the top of the mud ball with your fingers. Position the tied-up roots of the plant in the hole, then pack around the plant with more soil mix. Shape the soil back into a round ball.



3 Secure the moss

Position the ball in the centre of a large piece of moss, or many pieces of moss, and cover the mud with it. Wrap the ball with twine to secure the moss, leaving two long tails of twine to hang it up from.

Try vase flowers like gerberas in moss balls instead.

SAFETY TIP

Large, heavy moss balls must be suspended on multiple pieces of string or cord to distribute the weight effectively.

LEFT Use moss balls as organic table centrepieces.
BELOW Display them in a style of holder to suit your interior. ☺

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TERRARIUM

A terrarium is a clear globe planted up like a mini garden landscape and displayed indoors.

To create your own, choose plants and potting mix to suit, such as succulents or small flowers.

Clean a clear glass or plastic container well, then plant it up and add the decorative elements.

What you need

Clear container
Small pebbles or gravel
Potting mix
Decorative coloured pebbles
Activated charcoal
Trowel
Small plants
Spray water bottle



Design and create a garden miniscape for indoors.

1 2 3



1 Fill with potting mix

Fill the container to 25mm deep with small pebbles or gravel for drainage. Cover with a layer of activated charcoal, then add potting mix to about 75mm deep. Lightly pat down to remove air pockets and level the surface.



2 Add the plant

Using a trowel or your hands, dig a planting hole in the potting mix big enough for the roots. Gently position the plant in the hole, fill any gaps with extra potting mix and lightly pat down to secure the plant.



3 Decorate with pebbles

Cover the potting mix with a layer of decorative coloured pebbles using a trowel. Lightly mist the interior of the terrarium with a spray water bottle.

TIP Moss, pebbles or sand are great to use to create a mini garden scene.

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Whether eliminating weeds, controlling pests, or fertilising your garden, Nylex sprayers are a vital addition to any home.

The new range of Nylex domestic and heavy duty garden sprayers are suitable for all applications, ranging from indoor cleaning and watering, plant protection in the garden, greenhouse or patio.

The range includes a selection of trigger sprayers, manual sprayers, shoulder sprayers and backpack sprayers.

Whatever your sprayer needs, Nylex has the solution.

For more information visit www.nylexwatering.com.au

A white Nylex 5L shoulder sprayer with a blue handle and trigger gun. The sprayer has a pump handle on top and a hose connected to the trigger gun. The trigger gun has a blue adjustment knob and a black trigger.

nylex

5

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WATER WISELY

Change your watering habits with expert methods and quality equipment

WORDS AND PICTURES ADAM WOODHAMS

Saving water around the home generally means taking shorter showers, washing the car on the lawn and only using the dishwasher or washing machine with full loads.


But we can save large amounts of water in the garden as well.

Here are a few surprisingly simple ways to conserve it, from watering more efficiently to basic maintenance and which equipment to use for the job. ➤



Get more watering tips

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Regular use of a hose reel or holder will help to avoid kinks.

GARDEN HOSES

Although garden hoses may look similar, there are huge differences in their quality. Generally, the better hoses are less prone to kinks, holes, swelling and bursting.

Good for general light use, the Nylex Knockabout Braided Garden Hose, \$41, has an eight-year guarantee and moderate kink-resistance.



The Nylex Never Kink Pro Garden Hose, \$65, handles high pressure well, and comes with high-quality fittings and a 25-year guarantee (nylex.com.au).



Designed to resist twisting and knotting, the Gardena SuperFlex Fitted Garden Hose, \$99, is the ultimate in durability (gardena.com/au).



Water therapy

Walking around the garden with a hose can be therapeutic after a long day, but you're likely wasting water. Here's how to improve your watering habits.

- 1 **WATER** in the morning rather than the evening. Soil tends to be warmer in the evening, causing evaporation. Greater humidity will increase the risk of fungus as well.
- 2 **CONTROL** your hand-watering with a tap timer. Setting time limits will make you more conscious of your water use and more efficient.
- 3 **TARGET** the plants rather than spraying all over. A trigger nozzle or hose-end fitting will help you keep the water around the drip zone or leaf canopies.
- 4 **SOAK** the plants slowly and deeply. Watering lightly can create weak plants because they'll become surface-rooting as they seek moisture.



Flood pots to the top with a high-volume, low-impact wand, allowing the water to soak in. Repeat until the large bubbles stop flowing up from the potting mix.

NOZZLES & WANDS



With four precision spray patterns, the Gardenia Premium Metal Spray Hose End Trigger Gun, \$38, is ideal for most watering jobs (gardena.com/au).



The Holman Eight-pattern Trigger Spray Gun, \$13, has a variable flow dial so you can easily adjust the output to suit the application (holmanindustries.com.au).



Get a Grip

The new generation GARDENA FLEX Hoses feature an innovative Power Grip profile for the perfect connection.

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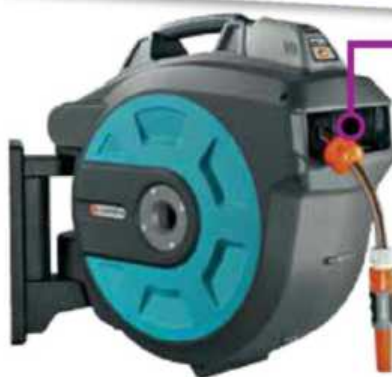


HOSE REELS

When it comes to saving water, a hose reel may not be the first thing that comes to mind, but it will help keep your hose kink and leak free, and you'll also get years more use from it.



Robust and reliable, with a wide frame, the Gardena Heavy Duty Metal Hose Trolley, \$99, can hold up to 60m of standard-gauge hose (gardena.com/au).



The wall-mountable 35m Gardena Auto Lithium Retractable Hose Reel, \$359, has a 180° swivel mount and motorised hose retraction mechanism.

Fully portable and compact, the Holman Retractable Hose Reel with Spray Gun, \$64, is ideal for use in those smaller spaces (holmanindustries.com.au).



A simple wall-mounted unit like the Nylex Handy Hose Hanger, \$10, is effective and economical. It has a built-in storage area for hose fittings.

It's hard to beat the Nylex Foot Pedal Hose Reel, \$179, for convenience. A slim design and fitted wheels make it easy to store and move about (nylex.com.au).





Stop-valve hose-end fittings help to eliminate wasteful leaks.

LEFT A hose can become kinked if it is not stored or handled correctly.

HOSE FITTINGS

Ensure the hose fittings are compatible with your nozzles and sprinklers, as this is an area likely to cause a leak.

Go for ones with higher UV stability, a must for all outdoor plastics under our harsh Aussie sun. ➤



□ To reduce water wastage, get stop-valve hose-end fittings like this Gardena 12mm Hose Connector with Control Valve, \$15 (gardena.com/au).



□ For stability and durability, the Holman 18mm Brass Hose Connector, \$17, has a locking mechanism that offers a solid connection (holmanindustries.com.au).



□ The ideal solution to leaks at the tap end, the Holman Flexible Extension Hose Fitting Protector, \$11, will ease the strain on your garden hose and fittings.



Thirst for stability?

GARDENA hose trolleys provide high quality, stable storage solutions. Bursting with clever innovative features there's one to suit every gardener.

Hose Trolley 80 H8
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 **GARDENA**

gardena.com



A computerised timer will ensure your irrigation system delivers just the right amount of water.



EXPERT SECRETS

You can buy optional sensors for water computers that monitor moisture and override the system if the soil is already wet enough.

DIGITAL TIMERS

Whether you're running a complex irrigation system, a sprinkler on the lawn or watering by hand, the best way to keep your water use under control is with a timer.

A water computer will allow you to turn your sprinkler or irrigation system on and off on set days of the week at intervals that you determine.

■ The Gardena MaxControl Electronic Tap Timer, \$97, has a detachable front panel and can be fitted with an optional soil-moisture sensor (gardena.com/au).



■ With a digital display and range of programming options, the Holman Digital Tap Timer, \$69, is ideal for controlling sprinklers (holmanindustries.com.au).



■ For more control, the clever Holman Two-hour Dual Outlet Tap Timer, \$30, has a mechanical timer on each outlet so it can handle two tasks at once.

HOSE-END SPRINKLERS

When you run your sprinkler, make sure it's only throwing water where it's needed. For more difficult spots, choose sprinklers with adjustable spray patterns and ranges.



Offering a wide range of patterns, the Gardena Comfort Aquazoom Hose End Sprinkler, \$48, is suitable for large or small lawns (gardena.com/au).

TAP WASHERS

A dripping garden tap could potentially be wasting thousands of litres a year, yet to repair it can take as little as 10 minutes and cost just a couple of dollars. 🌱



With washers being the parts most likely to cause wasteful leaks, a Gardena Washer Replacement Kit, \$4, is a good option when repairs are needed.



Relax.

With GARDENA, watering is always easy. Sit back and let your sprinkler do the work.

Aquazoom 230/2 Sprinkler
Infinitely adjustable spray range and width for perfect watering of any space from 25m² to 250m².



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SET THE CURRENT TIME

02

**STOP ALL WATERING
FUNCTIONS**

01

**BEGIN AUTO
WATERING - DISPLAYS
NEXT START TIME**

04

SET THE WATERING CYCLE START TIME

05

SET THE WATERING CYCLE DURATION

06

**SET HOW OFTEN
THE WATERING
CYCLE WILL RUN**

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COMPOST FOR FREE

Save money and also help the planet by making natural fertiliser in the backyard

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

DIY TIP

Make liquid fertiliser by mixing one part finished compost with three parts water. Leave the mix for three days before using.

Starting a compost heap is easy and it won't cost you a cent, providing you with an organic fertiliser for little work.

You'll also be returning carbon to the earth and boosting the soil's water-holding capacity by at least 30%.

There are various effective ways to make compost at home.

You can use a compost bin or tumbler, which are great for small gardens or courtyards. But if you have the space, it's best to make your own compost heap.

Did you know?

Each year in Australia, we throw out about three million tonnes of food scraps that could be turned into useful garden food. Food scraps in landfill decompose without oxygen and produce methane, a particularly potent greenhouse gas.

As the scraps break down, they also form a toxic liquid called leachate, which can pollute waterways and the land. ➤

BUILD AN OPEN BIN

Compost made in a heap decomposes aerobically, or with aeration. Choose a semi-shaded spot to make the heap, as too much sun will dry it out.

The compost can simply be heaped on the ground, but most gardeners prefer an enclosure made from fence poles, chicken wire and cardboard.

✦ **CREATE** two heaps if you have the space, as it's preferable to use one for adding new materials and the other for compost that is in the process of decomposing. Heaps of about 1-1.2m in height and width work well.

✦ **ENCOURAGE** earthworms by making your heap on top of soil.

✦ **USE** four timber or metal stakes to mark out an enclosure for a single heap, or six stakes for two heaps.

✦ **ENCLOSE** three sides of the heap by wrapping chicken wire around the stakes, then line it with cardboard.

Keep compost contained within a DIY open bin.

SAFETY TIP

Meat scraps, cat and dog excrement, diseased plants and fruit infected with fruit fly shouldn't be added to compost.



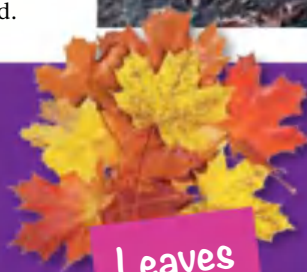
Recipe for success

Making compost is a bit like cooking in that you have to get the ingredients right.

A ratio of 30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen is ideal for backyard compost heaps.

Nitrogen materials include grass clippings, vegetable scraps, animal manures, garden waste and green garden clippings.

For carbon, use leaves, straw, sawdust and shredded paper.



Leaves



Shredded paper



Grass clippings



Horse dung



Vegie scraps

MAINTAIN THE HEAP

The traditional way to create a compost heap is to layer it.

- **START** with a 300mm layer of plant waste, followed by a thin layer of manure or blood and bone, then add a thin layer of topsoil.
- **INCLUDE** a layer of dolomite or lime if you want an alkaline compost.
- **CONTINUE** adding to the compost in layers until the heap reaches a height of about 1m.
- **KEEP** the heap damp rather than mushy and don't mat it down, as this will impede aeration and make it smell.
- **TURN** the heap regularly. The more frequently you turn the heap, the quicker your compost will be ready.
- **MOVE** the outer sections into the middle where the heat is while turning, so they will decay fully.



READY TO GO

When compost is a rich, dark colour, with a pleasant, earthy smell and a crumbly texture, it's ready to use.

Dig it into the soil before planting or use it as a mulch.

If it's finished before you need to use it, cover it with plastic to prevent the nutrients from leaching away. ➤



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WHAT CAN GO WRONG?



Seedlings appear

Large numbers of seedlings in your compost means the heap isn't hot enough. Cover it with punctured black plastic or old carpet to retain more of the heat.

The heap won't get hot

When the heap doesn't heat up, it lacks nitrogen. Add materials like grass clippings, manure or blood and bone. Turn it regularly and use insulating material in winter.



There's a bad smell

A lack of air or carbon in the heap will cause it to smell. Add dead leaves, stems, sawdust or straw and turn the heap. Use dolomite or wood ash to reduce acidity.



It's too wet or too dry

When the compost is too wet, add dry shredded newspaper, leaves or straw to dry it out. If it's too dry, add manure, blood and bone, and other nitrogen-rich ingredients.

Rodents move in

To prevent an infestation of rats or mice, cover the compost with underfelt, hessian or plastic. Turn it regularly and don't add seafood, dairy products or meat to the heap.



Weeds take over

Seal annual weeds that have gone to seed, and perennial and bulbous weeds, in a plastic bag with a little water. Cook in the sun for a month before adding to the heap.

Jump-start it

Plants such as dandelion, yarrow, borage, comfrey and stinging nettle are good compost activators.

Seaweed is an excellent accelerator. Hose it to remove the salt and allow to dry in the sun. Shred it into small pieces and add it to the layers in your heap.



Comfrey

Dandelion



Yarrow



Borage



Stinging nettle



WHITES

Thinking *Outside*

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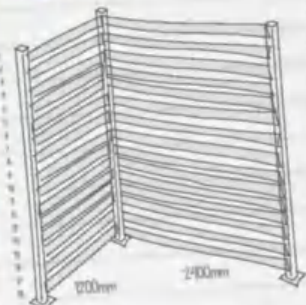
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Thinking *Outside*
think WHITES

PICK THE TOUGH TYPES

When refreshing or planning your garden, choose disease-resistant plants so it stays healthy

It's early spring and you're walking up and down the aisles of your favourite nursery in the hopes of replacing that sickly rosebush you pulled from the garden last autumn.

And that's when you see the robust beauty with emerald-green foliage and a bounty of bright pink blooms. It's picture perfect.

You buy it, plant it and give yourself a pat yourself on the back for choosing such a fine specimen.

Now fast forward to a beautiful summer's day a few months later. You're weeding the garden, and then you see the ugly spots all over your once-perfect rosebush. ➤





Learn more about pests and diseases
Visit handyman.net.au/10-organic-pest-control-tips

SMART SELECTION

If you'd chosen a 'Brindabella Bouquet', 'Leave Me Alone Pink' or 'New Dawn' rose instead, you probably wouldn't be in this predicament, as these cultivars are disease-resistant. That means no babysitting and no black spots.

Selecting disease-resistant plants is a smart option when planning or freshening up your garden.

We choose plants for a variety of reasons. It could be their flower colour or their ability to repeat-flower. But we should also consider disease-resistance.

Certain plants are less susceptible to disease and fungus-like leaf spot, mould and rust, so buying them is an investment in a healthy garden. It also means you minimise use of pesticides.

Modern plant breeding doesn't just deal with pest and disease-resistance, it also tackles plants that can become weedy by breeding sterile versions that won't seed throughout your garden or escape into the environment.



Rose 'New Dawn'

By choosing the right plants from the start, you'll also reduce the time you spend solving problems

Buying disease-resistant plants minimises the need for pesticides.



Power of prevention

Just as getting enough sleep and exercise help keep us healthy to fight off disease, so do good gardening habits work to keep your plants strong and resilient.

No plant is 100% immune, and a plant that is free of disease in a dry climate may be more susceptible in a humid or wet climate. Plant pathogens can also evolve and attack plants that were disease-resistant.

PICTURES: ALAMY, THINKSTOCK



Bred to be fighters

Plant breeders cultivate new disease-resistant offerings by selecting and crossbreeding plants with the traits they're looking for.

Breeding a modest parent plant genetically more resistant to disease with a vibrant partner known for big blooms or gorgeous colour creates a new variety that boasts the best of both worlds.

Disease-resistant plants are not hard to find, and many growers now market them this way, just as they do plants that attract wildlife or tolerate drought.

If you still can't find what you are looking for, you could join one of the online garden forums, or ask at your local nursery. ➤



Many plants are now marketed as disease-resistant.

PICTURES ALAMY, THINKSTOCK

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THE DOS AND DON'TS

By following these simple rules, you'll be well on your way to growing a disease-free garden.

✓ **SELECT** plants that thrive in your area, as stressful conditions may weaken their performance and make them more prone to problems.

✓ **PLANT** the right variety in the right site, according to its light requirements. The correct position allows every plant in your garden to reach its potential.

✓ **CONTROL** weeds, as they can attract pests such as aphids, which spread disease.

✓ **TAKE** into account the water needs of plants. They should be grouped according to their requirements, so plan your garden beds with this in mind.

✓ **WATER** in the morning when the foliage has all day to dry.

✓ **CHECK** your local area to ascertain which plants grow well and look in neighbouring gardens. Indigenous plants are usually reliable choices.

✓ **MAINTAIN** your soil, as healthy soil will help produce healthy plants.

✗ **AVOID** overcrowding your plants, as good airflow is critical.

✗ **NEVER** water from overhead if you water at night, especially on plants, such as roses, that are susceptible to fungus disease.

✗ **ENSURE** you don't over-fertilise. It is often viewed like a vitamin, something that keeps living things healthy, but too much can be a bad thing and may actually make plants more susceptible to disease. 🍷

Only water roses from overhead in the morning.

New Guinea Impatiens

TOP PLANT PICKS

Azalea [Autumn Royalty]

Dianthus [Memories]

Alstroemeria [Fabiana]

Rose [New Dawn]



Salvia Bethelii

Verbena Candy Cane

- 1 DIANTHUS 'Memories', Scent First Collection
- 2 AZALEA 'Autumn Royalty', 'Autumn Twist', 'Alba Magna'
- 3 PELARGONIUM 'Big Red', Solstice Series, Rocky Series
- 4 BEGONIA Danziger Collection, angel wing begonias
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- 8 SALVIA 'Bethelii', Heatwave Series, Style Solutions Range
- 9 ROSE Brindabella Blackspot Buster Series, 'New Dawn'
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Tantalising tomatoes

Grow your best-ever fruit, but just make sure the kids don't devour them all first

WORDS CHERYL MADDOCKS

Picking a tomato off the vine and popping it straight in your mouth is one of life's great pleasures. And now's the ideal time to get them into the ground and grow your own.

There are economic as well as taste reasons for cultivating tomatoes at home, as they give a higher yield for the space occupied in the garden than any other vegetable.

There is a wide choice of seedlings available in nurseries to suit a variety of uses and tastes. They're easy to grow and will thrive as well in containers as they do in garden beds. ➤

SEEDLINGS

Before planting seedlings, add organic matter such as compost, cow manure or Yates Dynamic Lifter to the soil.

Add a sprinkling of sulphate of potash to help with flower and fruit development, as well as disease-resistance. If the soil is acidic, which you can check with a pH kit, add dolomite or liquid lime.

✦ **REMOVE** the lower set of leaves, then plant the seedlings 500-600mm apart so that about half of each stem will be positioned below soil level.

The plants then put roots all down their stems, which gives them a more developed root system so they can absorb additional water and nutrients.

✦ **POSITION** a 2m high stake 50mm from the stem of the plants at this stage, if the plant type requires support, rather than later when you could damage the root systems.

✦ **WATER** with an application of Seasol to prevent transplant shock and tie the plants to the stakes using soft cloth or twine as they grow.



EXPERT SECRETS

If you don't have a dedicated vegie patch, scatter tomato plants throughout your flowerbeds.

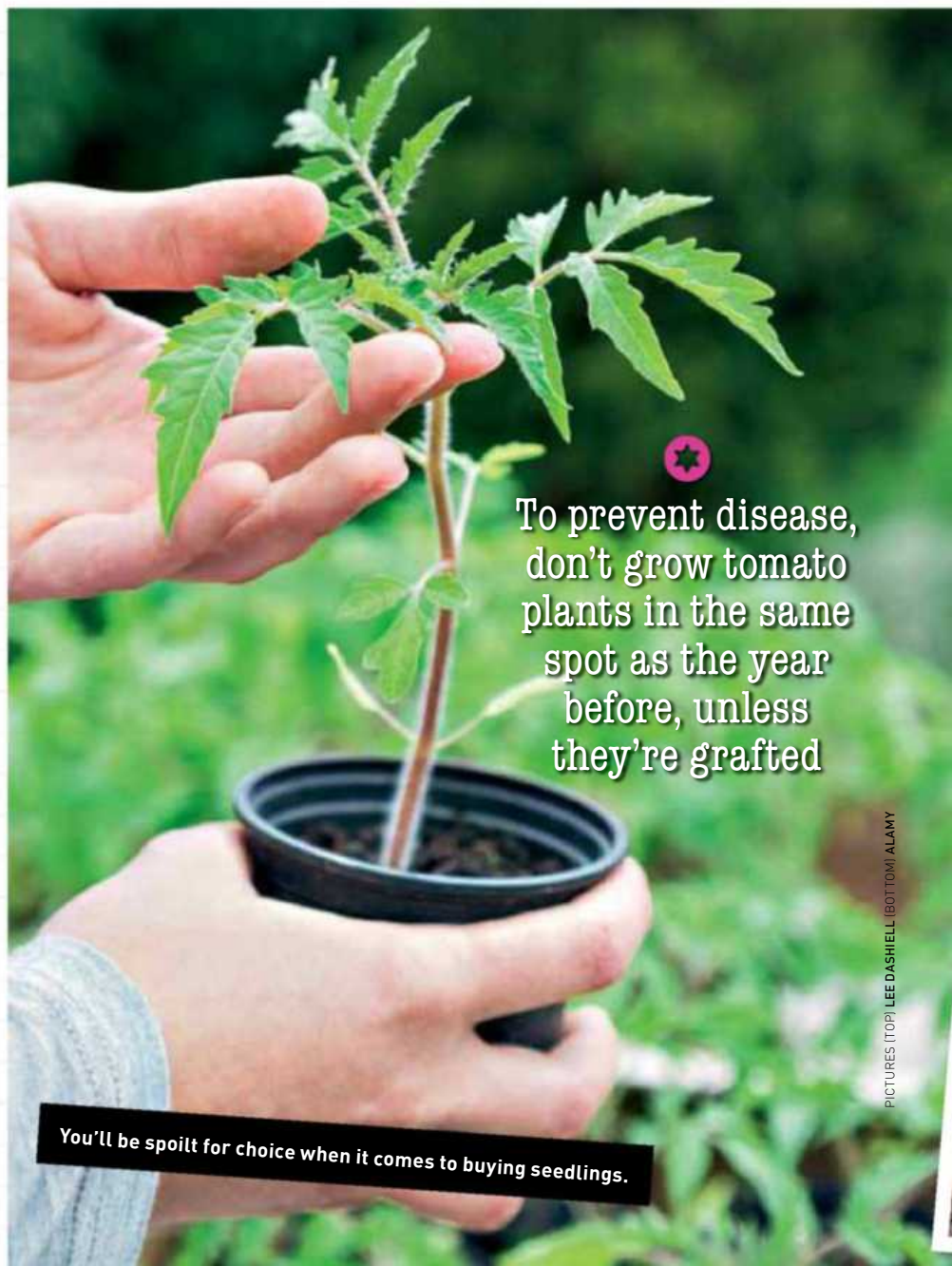


Grafted plants

As the growing medium doesn't need sterilising between harvests, grafted tomato plants were first used for hothouse production.

The top part of a seedling is grafted onto disease-resistant rootstock. They can be planted in the same spot each year, making them ideal for small gardens, where it's hard to rotate the crop.

Grafted tomatoes are not deep-stem planted like other tomatoes and the seedling is positioned at the same level in the soil as it was in the pot.



To prevent disease, don't grow tomato plants in the same spot as the year before, unless they're grafted

You'll be spoilt for choice when it comes to buying seedlings.

TOMATO TYPES

There are basically two types of tomato plants, which refer to the growth habit of the plant.

DETERMINATE Often called bush tomatoes, determinate cultivars have a dense habit and grow from 900-1200mm in height.

The fruit ripens all at once, then the plant dies. Certain cultivars need limited staking, but they should not be pruned. They grow well in pots and varieties include 'Patio Prize', 'Roma' and 'Tiny Tim'.

INDETERMINATE The cultivars are climbing plants that grow from 1800-2400mm high and need a substantial stake, cage or trellis for support.

These tomato plants set new fruit and ripen fruit consistently throughout the season until the cold weather arrives.

Varieties include most cherry tomatoes and heirloom types 'Beefsteak' and 'Grosse Lisse'.

Roma

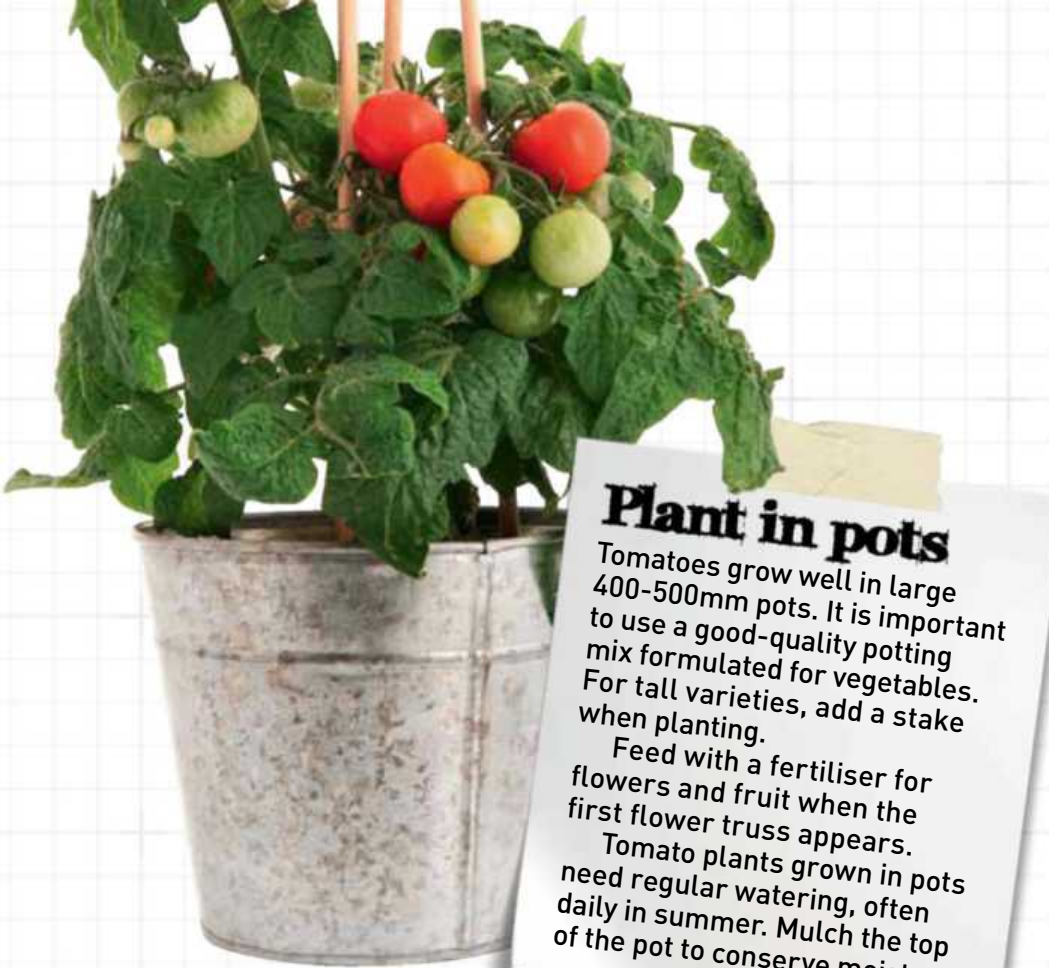
Beefsteak

Did you know?

Tomatoes were found growing by the Spanish in Mexico about 1550, and they introduced this yellow-fruited species to Europe. It was sour-tasting, seedy and rough-skinned.

While the Spanish ate the wild tomatoes, the Italians and English considered them to be poisonous, as they belonged to the nightshade family.

They were cultivated for ornamental use until about the mid 1800s, when they were bred with smooth skins and round shapes. They have been favourites ever since. ➤



Plant in pots

Tomatoes grow well in large 400-500mm pots. It is important to use a good-quality potting mix formulated for vegetables. For tall varieties, add a stake when planting.

Feed with a fertiliser for flowers and fruit when the first flower truss appears.

Tomato plants grown in pots need regular watering, often daily in summer. Mulch the top of the pot to conserve moisture.

CUTTINGS

Tomatoes grow easily from cuttings, and growing plants from cuttings extends the season. So, if you take cuttings in November from an existing plant, you will have an autumn crop.

✦ **CUT** off a 100-200mm side shoot and remove the lower leaves. Fill a 100mm pot with a good-quality potting mix for vegetables, then make a hole in the mix with a pencil.

✦ **POSITION** the cutting in the pot and press the mix around it to hold it firmly in place. Put in a warm, shady spot.

✦ **WATER** the mix using a mist spray. After seven days, gradually expose the pot to stronger light until it is in sunlight for most of the day.

✦ **TRANSPLANT** to the garden or a large pot after two weeks of sunlight when the roots will have formed.



GROW DOWN

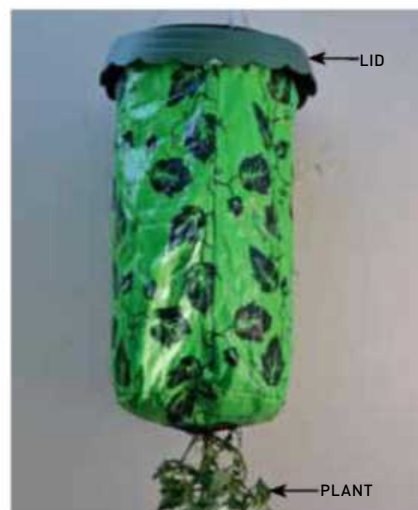
If you're lacking space, growing tomatoes upside down is a great idea. It provides good air circulation and the plant doesn't need staking.

Cherry tomatoes or bush tomatoes work best. We used the Upside Down Tomato Planter, \$6, from Bunnings.

1 2



1 **HANG THE PLANTER** in a sunny spot, then insert the rootball through the hole in the bag. Fill with a premium vegetable and herb potting mix.



2 **FIT THE LID** on the top of the planter and water in the tomato plant generously. Fertilise fortnightly using a soluble plant food.

Caring for your plants

Choose a spot in the garden that gets at least six hours of sunlight a day.

To retain moisture in the soil, mulch around the plants with straw, lucerne hay or sugar cane.

Water regularly and deeply at least twice a week, and to help prevent disease, water around the base of the plants rather than from overhead.

When the first flower truss appears, feed with a soluble plant food for flowers and fruit and repeat monthly while the plants are fruiting.

Harvest the tomatoes from the vine when ripe, cutting the stalk but leaving the calyx intact. ➤



Water tomato plants regularly to prevent the fruit splitting



Depending on the age and type of seedling, the tomatoes should be ripe in 10-15 weeks.



CHERYL'S PICKS



Yates Thrive Flower + Fruit Soluble Fertiliser, \$7 for 500g. yates.com.au



Pure Organic Vegetable & Herb Premium Plant Food, \$16. scottsaustralia.com.au

SOWING SEEDS

Seeds can be sown outdoors all year round in the tropics, until November in cool zones and until December in temperate areas.

They can be sown directly into the soil from October to December when the soil has warmed up. This is a good way to establish a later crop.

➤ **SOW** the seeds in a seedling punnet or you can use any clean, small pot. Jiffy Peat Pots, available from hardware stores, are ideal as you can plant the

pot directly in the garden bed and avoid any transplant shock.

➤ **FILL** the pot with a moist seed-raising mix, then make a 5mm deep dent in the mix. Put the seed in the dent and cover with mix. Position the pot in a well-lit spot.

➤ **WATER** with a mist spray. When the seedlings have reached about 75mm high, they are ready to harden off in a sunnier position.



Transplant seedlings to the garden when they are 100mm high.

PROBLEM SOLVER



Split fruit

SPOT IT As the fruit begins to ripen, it splits.

CAUSE Too much watering or heavy rain after a dry period.

FIX IT Water regularly, especially during dry periods.

Fruit fly

SPOT IT Tiny holes in the fruit.

CAUSE Flies lay eggs under the skin and the hatched larvae feed from the fruit, causing it to rot.

FIX IT Use a bait to detect fruit fly and destroy the infested fruit.



Blossom end rot

SPOT IT The base of the fruit becomes sunken and blackened.

CAUSE Lack of calcium together with irregular watering.

FIX IT Add soluble lime to the soil and water regularly.



Verticillium wilt

SPOT IT The lower leaves wilt and dry out, then the whole plant dies.

CAUSE A soil-inhabiting fungus.

FIX IT Destroy the infected plants and don't plant members of the Solanaceae family in the same spot for at least three years.



Tomato caterpillar

SPOT IT Holes appear in fruit.

CAUSE The moths lay their eggs on young growth and the larvae feed on foliage, blossoms and fruit.

FIX IT Use tomato and vegetable dust when you notice the insects.

Tomato russet mite

SPOT IT The lower green leaves turn a dull grey and eventually go brown and papery.

CAUSE Small yellowish mites.

FIX IT Spray with Yates Nature's Way Insect & Mite Killer.

Spiced tomato jelly

Tie 6 cloves and half a cinnamon stick in a muslin bag and put in a pan with 600ml water and 1.5kg ripe tomatoes. Stew gently until soft. Remove the spice bag from the pan and rub the pulp through a sieve. Add the juice to the pan, then add 1.5kg sugar and 1 cup white wine vinegar. Stir until the sugar has dissolved, then boil rapidly until setting point is reached.

TIP The yield depends on the type of fruit and the amount of juice extracted. On average, 5kg of jelly can be expected from every 3kg of sugar.

Pot the jelly in clean, warm jars as quickly as possible after it has reached setting point.

IN THE KITCHEN

Try these tasty ways to make the most of your fresh homegrown tomatoes.

✦ **CUT** the tops off large tomatoes, scoop out the flesh and mix with chopped olives, fresh basil and fetta. Put the filling inside the tomato and eat fresh or grill for five minutes.

✦ **FORM** tomato stacks by topping slices of a large tomato with fresh mozzarella and basil leaves. Season each layer and drizzle with olive oil.

✦ **PLACE** a truss of cherry tomatoes on a baking dish, drizzle with olive oil and bake in the oven for 10 minutes on medium heat. Serve as a side dish.

✦ **COMBINE** finely chopped tomatoes with chopped garlic, parsley, mint, olives and fetta. Drizzle with olive oil and serve on a slice of toasted baguette.

✦ **MAKE** a salsa with chopped tomato, cucumber, garlic, fresh basil, olives and olive oil. Serve with fish or lamb. ➤

Serves 4-6

The easiest way to make sure your tart has a lovely light and crisp base is to bake it upside down.

Tarte tatin of heirloom tomatoes

Ingredients

2 tablespoons olive oil
500g mixed heirloom tomatoes, halved top to bottom or cut into similar-sized pieces
2 tablespoons red wine or balsamic vinegar
¼ cup (40g) lightly packed brown sugar
1 sheet frozen puff pastry, thawed
100g goat's cheese
10 small fresh basil leaves
Freshly ground black pepper

Method

1 PREHEAT the oven to 225°C. Heat the olive oil over low heat in a 22-25cm ovenproof frying pan.

Arrange the tomato halves or pieces in the pan, cut side down, starting with the largest pieces and filling in the gaps with the smaller pieces. Pile any remaining pieces on top.

2 COOK the tomatoes for about 10 minutes or until the smaller pieces are completely soft and juices are bubbling around the sides of the pan.

3 COMBINE the red wine or balsamic vinegar and sugar in a small bowl, then pour evenly over the tomatoes. Remove the pan from the heat.

4 CUT the pastry into a round that is slightly larger than the pan, then working quickly, place the pastry on top of the tomatoes. Tuck the edges inside the pan so the pastry

completely covers the tomatoes.

Some juices will still escape. Bake in the oven for 15 minutes or until the pastry is crisp and golden.

5 HOLD the pan handle, then shake the pan firmly back and forth to make sure the whole tart is loose. Invert a large plate over the pan and, holding the plate and pan very firmly, flip the pan over to release the tart onto the plate. Use a spatula to free any tomato that is still stuck to the pan.

6 CRUMBLE the goat's cheese over the tart and scatter with the basil leaves. Season with pepper. Serve warm or at room temperature.

TIP Cut out any hard white stem cores from the tomatoes.

Gazpacho

In a large bowl, combine 4 cups (1L) tomato juice, 4 seeded and coarsely chopped roma tomatoes, 1 peeled, seeded and coarsely chopped cucumber, 1 seeded and coarsely chopped small yellow capsicum, 3 finely chopped spring onions, ¼ cup (60ml) freshly squeezed lemon juice, ¼ cup (15g) coarsely chopped fresh basil leaves and 1 crushed garlic clove. Season with salt, freshly ground black pepper and Tabasco sauce to taste. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour before serving.

Serves 4

This refreshing soup is always served cold.

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FREE Kids' D.I.Y. Workshops

» Sunday 1 ART CLASS Make your very own masterpiece to take home	» Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS Get helpful tips on sustainability for the festive season
» Saturday 7 WOODWORK Sand, saw and hammer to create a piece of art	» Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 CHRISTMAS GIFTS Have fun while creating a present for someone special
» Sunday 8 FUN MOSAICS Create a colourful piece with mosaic tiles	» Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER Help Santa create decorations and gifts to make your Christmas extra special

Our workshops are held every weekend at 11am, 12.30pm and 2pm. For specific topics, ask instore or go to bunnings.com.au. If you live in South Australia, speak to a team member or visit bunnings.com.au for details about our great one-on-one D.I.Y. workshops. These workshops run from 10am to 4pm each Saturday and Sunday.

FREE Adult D.I.Y. Workshops

» Sunday 1 DECKING Pick up all the essential tips for your outdoor deck project	» Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS Get helpful tips and expert advice to get organised this Christmas
» Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS Learn expert tips and new skills to get ready for the season	
» Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS Get helpful tips on sustainability for the festive season	
» Saturday 21 and Sunday 22 OUTDOOR ENTERTAINING Find out how to create the perfect outdoor entertaining area	

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5

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**STORAGE
CONTAINER**

With a dozen compartments, cardboard egg cartons are a natural for storing and organising small items like loose change, buttons, screws, nuts and bolts, and even fragile Christmas ornaments.

**PLASTIC
PROTECTOR**

To help prevent rubbish bags splitting open and making a mess, put an open cardboard carton in the bottom of the plastic bag. This will protect it from tears and punctures and create a base.

**SEED
SOWER**

Use cardboard egg cartons as seed nurseries. Fill each section with potting mix and plant a few seeds in each one. Once sprouted, divide it into individual sections and plant, cardboard and all.

**ICE
MAKER**


If you're having a big party or going on a picnic and need to make a lot of ice, simply use the bottom halves of clean polystyrene egg cartons as additional ice trays.

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